INDEX TO THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

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Printed indexes to Hansard

This index is produced from the House of Commons Library's Parliamentary Information Management Services (PIMS). It contains references to all material in the bound volume of Hansard.

- At the end of the session a sessional index is produced containing references to material in the bound volumes for the whole session.

Indexes on the Parliamentary website

Volume indexes covering material from the beginning of the 1999/2000 session will also appear on the Parliamentary website at http://www.parliament.uk with links to the full text of Hansard.

SCOPE

The indexes include entries covering:

- The content of all material recorded in Hansard, including debates, procedural motions and questions.
- The names of all Members contributing to the Parliamentary business recorded in Hansard.
- The names of some types of Parliamentary business whenever they occur in Hansard. These are 'Ministerial statements', 'Business statements', 'Opposition days' and 'Estimates days'.

ARRANGEMENT

- All headings are in one word-by-word alphabetical sequence, with Members' contribution entries distinguished from other entries by italics.
- Where a Member contributes to Parliamentary business and is the subject of Parliamentary business there are separate contribution and subject entries, the subject entry coming first.
- Entries beginning 'Mac' and 'Mc' are sorted in one sequence as 'Mac'.
- 'St', when abbreviated for Saint, is filed as 'Saint'.
- Numbers are filed as if spelt out, e.g. '10 Downing Street' as if 'Ten Downing Street'.

HEADINGS

Choice of headings

- *Specificity*—Entries summarise the overall content of a debate or question as specifically as the various PIMS thesauruses allow. For example, Education, Higher education, Universities or the name of a particular university is used depending on the breadth of the item.
- *Name headings*—Specific entries are included for the names of people, places, institutions, organisations, committees, programmes, initiatives, publications and legislation when these constitute the overall subject of an item.
- *Organisations and subjects*—Organisation entries are preferred for material about the general performance, administration and staffing of an organisation (for example, United Kingdom Passports Agency, Standards). Subject entries are preferred for what organisations do as part of their duties (for example, Passports, Fees and charges).

Geographical coverage

- *Subject headings*—Subject headings are assumed to refer to the whole of England, Great Britain or the United Kingdom unless otherwise stated.
- *Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales*—Material relating to the whole of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales is indexed under these headings.
- *Places within the UK*—Material about specific towns, areas and institutions is entered under the name of the specific town, area or institution.
- *Foreign countries*—Most material relating to foreign countries is collected under the name of that country. Some additional material may be found under the names of—groups of countries, areas within countries, geographical features, place names associated with particular issues, politicians and heads of state, international bodies, and institutions and companies operating in those countries.
- *EC/EU material*—General material about the European Union and European institutions as bodies is entered under 'European Union' and the named individual institutions. Material about what the Union and institutions are doing or propose to do is entered under various subject headings beginning 'EC' such as 'EC environmental policy'.

Parliamentary material and business

- *Material about Parliament*—This is indexed under 'Parliament', the names of the two Houses, the 'Palace of Westminster' and parts of the Parliamentary estate (such as 'Portcullis House').
- *Committees*—Material about committees is indexed under 'Committees', types of committee (such as 'Select committees') and the names of individual committees (such as 'Home Affairs Select Committee').
- *Parliamentary proceedings/procedures*—Material discussing these is indexed under the specific type of proceeding (such as 'Parliamentary questions' or 'Oral questions'), procedure (such as 'Calling of Members') or issue (such as 'Unparliamentary expressions').
- *Legislation*—Entries for Parliamentary proceedings on bills and statutory instruments are entered under their titles. Where the lead word of the bill or statutory instrument does not provide a full or clear indication of the subject there are additional subject entries when the bill or instrument is debated. For example, debates on the 'Child Support Pensions and Social Security Bill' have entries under 'Pensions' and 'Social security benefits' as well as under the title of the Bill.
- *Members' names*—These are given in the form by which the Member prefers to be known.
- *Speaker and Chair*—Contributions by the Speaker and deputies are brought together under the heading 'Speaker and deputies'. Contributions from the chair during Committees of the Whole House are brought together under 'Chairman of Committee of the Whole House'. Significant rulings and statements (as opposed to routine comments) are indicated by the sub-heading 'Rulings and statements' in both cases.

Cross references

- *See* references indicate that all the material has been entered under another heading.
- *See also* references indicate that additional information may be found under another heading.

REFERENCES

- References in the indexes are to columns rather than pages.
- References to debates, but not questions, are accompanied by the date of the item.
- There are separate sequences in Hansard for the material taken on the floor of the House, Westminster Hall sittings, written statements, written questions and ministerial corrections:
  - References consisting of a number by itself indicate material taken on the floor of the House.
  - References ending in 'wh' indicate Westminster Hall sittings.
  - References ending in 'ws' indicate written statements.
  - References ending in 'w' indicate written questions.
  - References ending in 'p' indicate written petitions.
  - References ending in 'mc' indicate ministerial corrections. (Where a volume number is given, the correction appears in a later volume).
- References under all headings except the names of Members contributing to Parliamentary business and the titles of legislation are listed in one numerical sequence irrespective of whether the material is taken on the floor of the House, is discussed at a Westminster Hall sitting, is a written statement or is a written question.
- References under the names of Members contributing to Parliamentary business and the titles of legislation are listed in numerical sequence under the following headings:
  - *Chamber Debates* (which includes interventions and points of order as well as significant contributions to debates);
  - *Westminster Hall Debates* (covering all debates held as part of the Westminster Hall sittings);
  - *Written Statements* (consisting of ministerial statements issued in writing); and
  - *Questions* (which includes all written, oral and urgent questions).

ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations are used in connection with the progress of bills:

- 1R = First reading
- 2R = Second reading
- Com = Committee stage
- Rep = Report stage
- 3R = Third reading
- res = resolution
- amendt(s) = amendment(s)
- * = matter taken formally without debate or division
- (HL) = Bill starting in House of Lords
- (SP) = Bill in Scottish Parliament.

Parliamentary background

- The Parliamentary website at http://www.parliament.uk contains a range of information about Parliament and the full text of some Parliamentary papers and proceedings including Hansard.
- Information on current Parliamentary business is provided in the House of Commons Information Office *Weekly Information Bulletin*, available on the website and from The Stationery Office (020 7873 8499).
- Further information on Parliamentary proceedings and procedures is available from the House of Commons Information Office (020 7219 4272).

A2
M2 1111w

A4
Heathrow Airport 683w

A5
M1 1113–4w

A30
Bodmin 944w

A264
East Sussex 683w

Abandoned vehicles
Fees and charges 1111w

Abbott, Ms Diane
Chamber Debates
Commonwealth (20.03.2008) 1113, 1118, 1124, 1135–43, 1147, 1178–80
Questions
Health services, Detention centres 342w
Health services, Prisons 1140–1w
Sudan, China 726–8w

Abbott Mead Vickers
Cabinet Office 322w
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 530w

Abortion
254w, 993w
Maternal mortality 1308w

Absenteeism
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 109w
Pupils 1157w

Academies
297–8w, 901–2w
Finance 166–9w, 1404–6w

Acceptable behaviour contracts
926–7w
Durham 1244–5w

Accident and emergency departments
254w, (12.03.2008) 383–90, 736w
Admissions 546w

Accidents
Emergency services 686–90w
Lorries 1379w
Parliament Square 215w
Pupils 187w
Railways 1387w
Roads 217w, 683w, 692w, 776w, 1116–7w, 1387–8w
Taking and driving away 1116–7w

Accountancy
Home Office 926w
INTO University Partnerships 491w
Treasury 717w

Action for Employment
Ministry of Justice 867–8w

Actis
1268w

Addresses to the Crown
Foot and mouth disease (11.03.2008) 127

Adjudication Panel for England
Information officers 1375w

Admiralty House
590–1w, 1087w, 1181–2w

Adult education
Finance 596–7w
Literacy 1016w

Advertising
Border and Immigration Agency 338–9w
Cabinet Office 323–4w
Dept for Children Schools and Families 403w

Advertising*—*continued
Dept for Communities and Local Government 398w
Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 36–7w
Dept for International Development 283w
Dept for Work and Pensions 1393–4w
Dept of Health 738w
Home Office 928w
Office of the Secretary of State for Wales 5w
Press 985w
Television 149–50w
Treasury 116w

Advisory Committee on Business Appointments
see Business Appointments Advisory Committee

Advocacy
Learning disability 471–2w

Afghanistan
Armed conflict 1182w
Detainees 858w, 1306w
Drugs 635–6w
Education 1177w
Infant mortality 1177w
Kidnapping 491–2w
Malnutrition 1177–8w
Overseas aid 625w, 925–6w
Peacekeeping operations 10w, 293–4w, 450w, 648w, 656–7w, 662w, 711–4w, 808w, 811–2w, 1034w, 1042–3w, 1169–72w, 1307w
Politics and government 1034w
United Nations 858w, 1283w

Africa
Foreign exchange 280–2w
Overseas aid 819w, 1178w

Afriyie, Adam
Questions
Bees, Diseases 217–8w
Heathrow Airport 1113w
Heathrow Airport, A4 683w
Heathrow Airport, Noise 527–8w
Physics, Research 853w

Age
Discrimination 523w, 1280w
Health professions 269w

Aggregates
Exports 942w

Agriculture
Co-operative Movement 1127w
Subsidies 31w
Waste 1294w

Aiding and abetting
Trespass 607–8w

Ainsworth, Bob, Minister of State, Ministry of Defence
Written Statements
Armed forces, Pensions 18ws
Armed forces, Training 63–4ws
Centre for Defence Enterprise 68–9ws
Questions
Afghanistan, Peacekeeping operations 450w, 648w, 714w, 1043w, 1169w
Air force, Deployment 708w
Armed forces, Cadets 1163w
Armed forces, Conditions of employment 1034w
Armed forces, Deployment 1035–6w
Armed forces, Food 1039w
Armed forces, Foreigners 1164w
Armed forces, Recruitment 453–4w, 1164–5w
Armed forces, Uniforms 290w

Ainsworth, Bob,*—*continued
Armed forces, Vehicles 1165w
Armed forces, Weapons 295–6w, 1165–6w
Armoured fighting vehicles 710w
Army, Deployment 649w
Army, Training 455–6w
Balkans, Peacekeeping operations 295w
British overseas territories, Armed forces 649w
Central Africa, Peacekeeping operations 291w
Challenger tanks 1039w
Challenger tanks, Ammunition 1176–7w
Challenger tanks, Repairs and maintenance 649w
Cluster munitions 290–1w
Colombia, Ecuador 291w
Committee of Permanent Representatives 650–4w
Commonwealth, Armed forces 655w
Computers, Ministry of Defence 1305–6w
Courts martial 455–7w
Cyprus, Military bases 291–2w
Data protection, Ministry of Defence 292w, 1040w
Defence, Procurement 457w
Defence equipment 655w, 1166w
Defence Equipment and Support 1304–5w
Depleted uranium 1167w
Eastern Europe, NATO enlargement 655w
EC defence policy 293w, 648w, 664w, 1036–7w
EU battlegroups 1038w, 1041w
Fairtrade initiative, Ministry of Defence 656w
Future surface combatant 656w
HMS Ark Royal 286w
HMS Southampton 1042w
Iraq, Defence equipment 662–3w
Iraq, Peacekeeping operations 293w, 656–62w, 711–4w, 1042w, 1170–2w, 1306–7w
Joint rapid reaction force 453w, 460w
Joint strike fighter aircraft, Procurement 294w
Military aircraft 1172w
Military aircraft, Helicopters 1172–4w
Military exercises 1038w, 1041w
Motor vehicles, Ministry of Defence 293w
National Recognition of our Armed Forces Inquiry 1043w
Navy, Deployment 459w
Nimrod aircraft 714w
Nuclear weapons, Transport 663w
OCCAR, Finance 294w
Private finance initiative, Ministry of Defence 292w
QinetiQ, Property transfer 295w
Reserve forces, Labour turnover 663–4w
Royal Regiment of Scotland, Labour turnover 1043–4w
Security, Ministry of Defence 292–3w
Territorial Army, Manpower 295w
Trident missiles 665w
Type 23 frigates 666w
Type 45 destroyers 1174w
Warships 665–6w, 1174–6w

Ainsworth, Mr Peter
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (17.03.2008) 635, 640–1, 645–51, 663, 715
Questions
Air pollution, Pollution control 943–4w
Animal welfare 1117–8w

***Ainsworth, Mr Peter**—continued*
Drinking water, Dept for Transport 446w
Foot and mouth disease, Disease control 406–7, 943w
International Environmental Transformation Fund 225w
Internet, Surrey 249w
Packaging, Carbon emissions 1127w
Public bodies, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 34w
Refrigerators, Waste disposal 1127–8w
Waste management, Standards 1133w

Air force
Deployment 708w

Air pollution
East of England 730–2w
Pollution control 8–9ws, 943–4w
West Midlands 938–9w

Air traffic control
209w

Airports
Police 609–10w

Alcohol disorder zones
1270w

Alcoholic drinks
Antisocial behaviour 1049w
Belfast 1277–8w
Crime 1238–40w, 1270–4w
Death 115w
Excise duties 120w
Greater London 1238–40w
Health education 182w, 901w, 1359w
Lancashire 79–80w
Misuse 70–1w, 79–80w, 96w, 310w, 465–6w, 546–7w, 926w, 993–5w, 1137w, 1270w
Prisons 1356w
Public places 1273–5w
Pupil exclusions 1073–5w, 1155–6w
Retail trade 142w
Yorkshire and the Humber 71w
Young people 71w, 80w, 312–4w, 1241–4w

Alderman Blaxill School Colchester
603

Alexander, Danny
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (13.03.2008) 444, 448–56, 458
Westminster Hall Debates
Post offices, Highlands of Scotland (18.03.2008) 214–8wh
Questions
Child Support Agency; Compensation 424–5w
Child Support Agency, Operating costs 428–9w
Children, Maintenance 429–30w, 565–9w, 1391–2w
Council tax benefits 1393w
Disabled, Ministry of Defence 1167w
Dismissal, Dept for Work and Pensions 824–5w
Employment, Low incomes 435–6w
Employment Tribunals Service, Learning disability 1193w
Health of Britain's Working Age Population Review 835w
Homelessness, Departmental coordination 431w
Housing benefit 431w, 1062w
Income support, Lone parents 1396w
Joint Ministerial Committee 590w
Liquefied petroleum gas 982w
Pension credit 431w, 1064w
Pensioners 1063–5w, 1399–400w

***Alexander, Danny**—continued*
Pensions Education Fund 433–4w
Personal Accounts Delivery Authority 831w
Social Fund 1401–2w
Social security benefits 1403w
Social security benefits, Expenditure 1402w
Social security benefits, Fraud 577w
Social security benefits, Post office card account 1403w
Vetting, Dept for Work and Pensions 1402–3w
Welfare tax credits 886–7w, 896–7w
Welfare tax credits, Appeals 1015–6w
Welfare tax credits, Fraud 1015w
Welfare tax credits, Lone parents 17–8w
Welfare tax credits, Overpayments 897–8w
Welfare tax credits, Overtime 1014–5w
Welfare tax credits, Training 896w
Winter fuel payments 840w

***Alexander, Rt Hon Douglas**, Secretary of State for International Development*
Written Statements
Bangladesh, English language 61–2ws
Questions
Afghanistan, Education 1177w
Afghanistan, Infant mortality 1177w
Afghanistan, Malnutrition 1177–8w
Afghanistan, Overseas aid 925–6w
CDC 1268w
Gaza, Overseas aid 503w
Internet, Dept for International Development 1178w
Iraq, International assistance 1w
Middle East, Peace negotiations 1269w
Official cars, Dept for International Development 504w
Palestinians, Overseas aid 265–9
Publications, Dept for International Development 1269w
Sudan, Overseas aid 626w
Written questions, Government responses 1181w

Allen, Mr Graham
Questions
Developing countries, HIV infection 273
Disadvantaged, Children 1135w
Disadvantaged, Education 899w
Legislation, Public participation 763–4w, 1278w
Nottinghamshire Police, Manpower 76w
Politics and government, Public participation 373w
Regional development agencies 621w
Schools, Admissions 1413–4w
Select committees, Regional government 387w
Wildlife, Smuggling 1299w

Alternatives to prison
877–8w

Ambulance services
East Sussex 254–5w
Hertfordshire 740w
Manpower 466w
Standards 466–7w

Amess, Mr David
Questions
Abortion 254w
Bermuda, Tourism 492w
Council tax, Arrears 959–60w
Council tax, Non-payment 1082w
Cromwell Green Entrance 3–4w
Cyprus, Overseas trade 984w
Exservicemen, Disabled 14w, 1168w
Food, Labelling 267w
Germany, Antisemitism 1185w

***Amess, Mr David**—continued*
Hay fever 1139w
Hay fever, Pupils 1075w
Health education, Sex 911–2w
Holocaust Memorial Day 699w
Iran, Hamas 1186w
Iraq, Peacekeeping operations 658–61w
Israel, Conferences 331w
Israel, Foreign investment in UK 487w
Israel, Iran 104w, 1189w
Israel Britain Business Council, Finance 487w
Middle East, Armed conflict 105w, 643–4w
Middle East, Politics and government 495w
Nature conservation 71–2w
Parliament, Security 397–8w, 735–6w
Parliament, Visits 398w
Parliament Square, Accidents 215w
Trespass 357–8w
Trespass, Aiding and abetting 607–8w
Written questions, Government responses 76w, 349w

Ammunition
Challenger tanks 1176–7w

Amusement arcades
Canvey Island 128w

Ancram, Rt Hon Michael
Chamber Debates
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 153
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 946–7

Anderson, David
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (18.03.2008) 820–4, 829
Westminster Hall Debates
Forestry Commission, Commercial activities (19.03.2008) 284wh
Nursing and Midwifery Council (11.03.2008) 46wh
Questions
Employment schemes, Private sector 570w
Energy, Prices 247w
Hunting 1277w
Infrastructure Planning Commission 1202w
Internet, Dept for Work and Pensions 569w
Manpower, Dept for Work and Pensions 825w
NHS, Geographical information systems 755w
Oil, Exploration 251w
Planning, EC law 1208w
Social services, Finance 734
Transport, North East 448w

Anderson, Janet
Westminster Hall Debates
Arts (20.03.2008) 303wh

Angling
219w, 939–40w

Animal experiments
407–8w, 601–2w

Animal welfare
1117–8w
Cattle 408–9, 730w, 1119w
Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 488w
Dept for International Development 505w
Finance 414w, 416w
Home Office 602w
Poultry 47w

Animal Welfare Act 2007
Questions
33w

Animals Act 1971 (Amendment) Bill 2007–08
Chamber Debates
2R adjourned (14.03.2008) 514–88

Antibiotics
Health education 80–1w

Antidepressants
270–1w, 670w

Antisemitism
Germany 1185w

Antisocial behaviour
1081–2w
Alcoholic drinks 1049w
Fixed penalties 880w
Public transport 772w
Young people 54–5ws, 880w

Antisocial behaviour orders
Cornwall 1245w

Anti-terrorism control orders
24–6ws

Anti-Terrorism Crime and Security Act 2001
Questions
936w

Apprentices
24–6w, 108w, 169–70w, 253w, 285–6w, 610–1w
Arts 134–5w
General certificate of secondary education 170w

Arbuthnot, Rt Hon James
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 1014

Archaeology
Peterborough 540w

Archives
Armed forces 1173w

Armed conflict
Afghanistan 1182w
Middle East 105w, 493w, 643–5w
Somalia 333w
Sudan 106–7w, 274–5, 498–9w, 823w, 1188w
Uganda 500–1w, 1032w

Armed forces
Archives 1173w
Beef 281
British overseas territories 649w
Cadets 289–90w, 1163w
Commonwealth 655w
Compensation 11w
Conditions of employment 1034–5w
Coroners 73w, 151w, 373–4w
Council tax 809w
Deployment 1035–6w
Food 1039w
Foreigners 1164w
Genetics 451–2w
Harassment 782w
Health 454w
Housing 12w, 65–6ws, 286–9w, 452–3w, 964–5w, 1034–7w, 1166w, 1304w
Inheritance tax 11w
Pay 65–6ws, 458w, 708–10w
Pensions 18ws, 458w
Political impartiality 664w
Post traumatic stress disorder 1038w
Recruitment 453–4w, 1164–5w
Shrewsbury 1037w
Training 63–4ws

Armed forces—continued
Uniforms 279–80, 290w, 648–9w, 1042–3w
Vehicles 1165w
Weapons 295–6w, 1165–6w

Armoured fighting vehicles
710w

Arms trade
Burma 858–9w
Sudan 334w

Armstrong, Rt Hon Hilary
Westminster Hall Debates
Developing countries, HIV infection (18.03.2008) 207wh

Army
Deployment 649w
Training 455–6w

Arrests
Domestic violence 1249–50w
Greater London 782–3w
Terrorism 807–8w
Vandalism 808w

Art works
Loans 144w
World War II 135–6w

Arthritis
Drugs 1137–8w

Artificial sweeteners
Obesity 1007w

Arts
3–4, (20.03.2008) 295–342wh
Apprentices 134–5w
Bexley 136–7w
Community development 1357–8w
Finance 315w
North West 1045w
Warrington 835–6w

Arts Council of England
540w
Public appointments 314w, 541w

Ashford Kent
Children's centres 1071w
Crimes of violence 1249w

Assets
715w
British Coal Corporation 978w
Ministry of Defence 1039–40w

Asylum
336–7w (477 5–6mc), 795–6w
Burma 859w
Chad 281–2w
Children 173–5w
Iraq 348–9w, 355–6w, 801w
Latin America 337–8w

Asylum and Immigration Tribunal
Databases 672w

Attorney General
1033w

Audit
Union Modernisation Fund 31w

Autism
467w
Children 1068w

Aviation
Cabinet Office 1300w
Exhaust emissions 405–6, 438–9w
Foreign and Commonwealth Office 1283w
Greater London 439w
Noise 63–4w
Security 683–4w
South East 438–9w

Aviation—continued
Sustainable development 209–10w
USA 1375–6w

AWE Aldermaston
Protest 1039w
Safety 814w

AWE Burghfield
Safety 814w

Bacon, Mr Richard
Questions
NHS, Disciplinary proceedings 992w
NHS, Information and communications technology 475–7w

Badgers
see Bovine tuberculosis

Bail
1082w

Bail accommodation and support service
129–31, 376–8w
Basildon 144
Bodmin 1189w

Bailey, Mr Adrian
Chamber Debates
Northern Rock, Nationalisation (10.03.2008) 25, 47–52

Baird, Vera, Solicitor General
Questions
Attorney General 1033w
Coroners 1282w
Corruption 1033w, 1070–1
Cost effectiveness, Solicitor-General 200w
Devolution 202w
Domestic violence, Prosecutions 1282w
Drinking water, Solicitor-General 201w
Foxley, Gordon 1041–2w
Fraud, Small businesses 1071–2
Fraud, USA 1033w
Genetics, Databases 387w, 1068–70, 1282w
Homeworking, Solicitor-General 201–2w
Older workers, Solicitor-General 202w
Rape, Prosecutions 1282–3w
Television, Solicitor-General 203w

Baker, Norman
Chamber Debates
London Underground (10.03.2008) 87–91, 114
Questions
Aviation, Exhaust emissions 438–9w
Biofuels, USA 684w
British Airports Authority, Landing charges 445–6w
Coroners 1282w
Departmental reorganisation, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 111w
Disclosure of information, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 109–10w
Emergency services, Accidents 686–90w
Freedom of information, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 842w
Freedom of information, Dept for Transport 946w
Heathrow Airport 445w, 1381w
Heathrow Airport, Official visits 493–4w
Heathrow Airport, Profits 769–70w
House of Commons, Drinking water 1107–8w, 1307–8w
M25 771w
Network Rail, Managers 1114–5w
Official cars 442w
Oil, Prices 620w
Olympic Games, China 15
Olympic Games 2012, Stratford Station 391w

***Baker, Norman**—continued*
Passenger ships 691w, 952–3w
Ports, Waste disposal 691–2w
Railway stations 1386–7w
Railways 773w
Railways, Biofuels 217w
Railways, Construction 770–1w
Railways, Felixstowe 1115w
Railways, Repairs and maintenance 9w
Railways, South East 529w, 774w, 1116w
Railways, Sussex 776w
Roads, Accidents 1117w
Rolling stock 692–3w, 775w
Rolling stock, Great Western Trains 9w
Rolling stock, Southern 9–10w, 529–30w
Transport, East of England 531w

Baker Review
see Mechanism for Determining the Pay and Pensions for Members of Parliament Review

Baldry, Tony
Chamber Debates
Brussels Summit (EC) (17.03.2008) 630
Budget March 2008 (18.03.2008) 767, 773, 778, 784, 797, 804–10
Health services, Points of order (18.03.2008) 751
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 946–8
Westminster Hall Debates
Community policing (19.03.2008) 232–6wh
Questions
Bullingdon Prison, Extradition 352w
Developing countries, Education 504–5w
Greenhouse gas emissions 394
Hospitals, Waiting lists 737
NHS treatment centres, Horton 1144w
Ordination, Females 1066
Overseas aid 501w
Prisons 140
Specialised diplomas 615
Tenancy deposit scheme 67w
Waste and Resources Action Programme 555w

Balkans
Immigration 796–7w
Peacekeeping operations 295w

Ballistic missile defence
14–5w

***Balls, Rt Hon Edward**, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families*
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 299
Written Statements
Children, Protection 36–9ws
School leaving 33–6ws
Schools, Admissions 4–7ws, 39–40ws
Questions
Dance, Curriculum 616
Departmental responsibilities, Dept for Children Schools and Families 612
Education, Disadvantaged 899w
GCE A-level 612
Schools, Admissions 613–4
Schools, Standards 600–3
Secondary education, Admissions 610–1
Teachers, Pay 606–7

Bangladesh
English language 61–2ws
Entry clearances 1187–8w

Bank of Credit and Commerce International
127w

Bank services
Liechtenstein 115–6w, 370w, 537–8w, 883w
Proof of identity 1216–7w, 1265w

Bankruptcy
Greater London 837–8w

Banks
Iran 330–1w
Taxation 365w

Banks, Gordon
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (13.03.2008) 502
National security (19.03.2008) 938
Organs, Donors (19.03.2008) 1051–6
Westminster Hall Debates
Window blinds, Safety (12.03.2008) 98–103wh
Questions
Apprentices 24–6w, 253w, 610–1w
Direct mail 247w
Females, Politics and government 1073
Mineral waters 397
Organs, Donors 737–8
Paper, Recycling 225w

Barker, Gregory
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (17.03.2008) 642, 662–3
Questions
Business resource efficiency and waste programme 51–2w
Coal, Pollution control 246w
Coal fired power stations 240–1w, 248w, 611w
Coal fired power stations, Carbon sequestration 239w, 612–3w
Coal fired power stations, Environment protection 245–6w
Coal fired power stations, Kingsnorth 240–5w, 613–5w
Developing countries, HIV infection 1180w
Greenhouse gas emissions 395

Barking Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust
Finance 1138w

Barlow, Celia
Westminster Hall Debates
Licensing laws, Durham (19.03.2008) 289wh
Questions
Housing, Low incomes 921–2

Barnet
Breast cancer 996w

Barnet Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust
Standards 996w

Barnsley
Palliative care 1007w, 1147w

Baron, Mr John
Chamber Debates
Commonwealth (20.03.2008) 1108
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 958–9, 972
Prisons, Points of order (13.03.2008) 428
Questions
Bail accommodation and support service, Basildon 144
Cancer, Drugs 1138w
Iraq, Weapons 860w

Barrett, John
Westminster Hall Debates
Disabled, Poverty (11.03.2008) 14–7wh

Basildon
Bail accommodation and support service 144

Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Trust
Strokes 81w

Bassetlaw
Education maintenance allowance 601w
Health centres 992w
Students 601w

Bats
Churches 1281w

Battle, Rt Hon John
Questions
Shipping, Safety 1388w

Bayley, Hugh
Chamber Debates
Commonwealth (20.03.2008) 1109–17, 1126, 1164, 1175
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 159, 201
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 948, 952, 957, 960
Westminster Hall Debates
Transport, Yorkshire and the Humber (11.03.2008) 32wh, 34–5wh, 41wh
Questions
Business questions 1095–6
Carbon emissions 407
Class sizes, York 176w
Corruption 1070–1
Developing countries, Elections 270
International Development Association 502w
Political parties, Expenditure 377w
Primary education, York 185–6w
Roads, Accidents 1116w, 1387–8w
Sure start programme, Finance 612–3
Taking and driving away, Accidents 1116–7w
War pensions, Appeals 375w

BBC
Sponsorship 1358–9w

Beckett, Rt Hon Margaret
Chamber Debates
National security (19.03.2008) 935

Beef
Armed forces 281

Beer
Excise duties 364w
Investment 238w

Bees
Diseases 217–8w

Beith, Rt Hon A J
Chamber Debates
Northern Rock, Nationalisation (10.03.2008) 22
Questions
Public expenditure 143

Belfast
Alcoholic drinks 1277–8w
Identity and Passport Service 410w
Parades 733w

***Bell, Sir Stuart**, Second Church Estates Commissioner*
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 352–7
Questions
Bishops, Females 1281w
Bishops, Finance 1067
Bishops, Housing 1068
Church of England, Finance 1065
Churches, Bats 1281w
Churches, Theft 1066–7

Bell, Sir Stuart, *—continued*
Ordination, Females 1066

Bellingham, Mr Henry
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (13.03.2008) 438, (17.03.2008) 638, 654, 672, 681–5, 689, 712, (18.03.2008) 758, 760, 769
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 950
Westminster Hall Debates
Roads, Norfolk (12.03.2008) 106–9wh
Questions
Departmental responsibilities, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 403
Feltham Young Offender Institution and Remand Centre 377w
Fraud, Small businesses 1071–2
Olympic Games 2012, Gun sports 19–20
Pigs 405
Prisoners 872w
Prisoners' release 138
Prisons, Discipline 379–80w
Social services, Finance 735
Young offenders, Custodial treatment 386w

Bellwin scheme
694w

Benn, Rt Hon Hilary, *Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs*
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (17.03.2008) 635–44, 647, 661
Written Statements
EU Environment Council 21–2ws
Foot and mouth disease, Disease control 9–11ws
Questions
Biofuels 409–10
Bluetongue disease, Disease control 401–3
Bluetongue disease, Vaccination 409
Carbon emissions 407
Departmental responsibilities, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 405
Exhaust emissions, Aviation 405–6
Flood control 398–401
Food supply 562w
Foot and mouth disease, Disease control 406–7
Pigs 405

Benyon, Richard
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (18.03.2008) 771
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 967, 1020–2

Benzodiazepines
Death 715–6w

Bercow, Mr John
Questions
Burma 722–5w
Burma, Arms trade 858–9w
Burma, Asylum 859w
Burma, Overseas aid 625–6w
Business questions 425–6
Child prostitution 175w
Children, Protection 1071w
Malaysia, Human rights 726w
Pupils, Intimidation 608–9

Beresford, Sir Paul
Chamber Debates
Commonwealth (20.03.2008) 1131–6
Questions
Incinerators 46–7w

Bermuda
Emigration 492w
Overseas trade 984w
Tourism 492w

Berry, Mr Roger
Westminster Hall Debates
Disabled, Poverty (11.03.2008) 1–9wh
Questions
Equality, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 1119–20w
Equality, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 842w
Equality, Dept of Health 83–4w
Equality, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 100w
Equality, Home Office 785w
Equality, Ministry of Defence 13w

Bexley
Arts 136–7w
Big Lottery Fund 1149–50w
Gift aid 1012w
Pension credit 207w
Religious buildings 544–5w
Roads 217w

Big Lottery Fund
1045w
Bexley 1149–50w
Olympic Games 2012 1134w
Tamworth 395–6w

Bingo
137w
Community relations 1194w
Tax yields 370w
Taxation 128w, 134w
VAT 722w

Binley, Brian
Questions
Crime, Retail trade 927w

Biodiversity
Finance 420–1w

Biofuels
238–9w, 409–10, 611w, 922–3
Railways 217w
USA 684w

Biometrics
National identity register 602w

Birds
Conservation 1294w
Game 1294w

Birds of prey
Genetics 33–4w

Birmingham
Health centres 747

Birmingham New Street Station
765w, 944w

Bishops
Females 1281w
Finance 1067
Housing 1068

Black Review
see Health of Britain's Working Age Population Review

Blackman-Woods, Roberta
Westminster Hall Debates
Licensing laws, Durham (19.03.2008) 286–90wh, 292–3wh
Questions
Afghanistan, Armed conflict 1182w
Afghanistan, Education 1177w
Afghanistan, Infant mortality 1177w
Afghanistan, Kidnapping 491–2w
Afghanistan, Malnutrition 1177–8w
Afghanistan, Overseas aid 625w

Blackman-Woods, Roberta *—continued*
East coast railway line 213w

Blears, Rt Hon Hazel, *Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government*
Questions
Coastal areas, Migration 1194w
Regional ministers 236w
Regional ministers, Official engagements 236–7w

Blindness
see Sight impaired

Blood
Contamination 256–7w
Donors 1308–9w
Greater London 1308–9w

Blue badge scheme
439w

Bluetongue disease
414–5w
Disease control 401–3, 940w, 1119w
Vaccination 409, 414–5w, 1118w

Blunt, Mr Crispin
Chamber Debates
Brussels Summit (EC) (17.03.2008) 629
Budget March 2008 (18.03.2008) 849

Bodmin
A30 944w
Bail accommodation and support service 1189w

Boilers
Safety measures 205w, 399–400w

Bone, Peter
Chamber Debates
Brussels Summit (EC) (17.03.2008) 629
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 187
Roads (18.03.2008) 896
Westminster Hall Debates
East Midlands Trains (11.03.2008) 56–7wh
Questions
Afghanistan, Overseas aid 925–6w
Education, Prisons 852w
Flood control 398
Hospitals, Waiting lists 736–7, 743–4w, 757–8w
Northern Rock, Nationalisation 369w
Secondary education, Standards 1419w
Video games, Children 135w
Voluntary organisations 1303–4w

Bone diseases
Petitions 7–8p

Bookmakers
Horse racing 320w

Border Agency
see UK Border Agency

Border and Immigration Agency
(20.03.2008) 1183–90
Advertising 338–9w

Borders
Personal records 344w
Police 783w

Borrow, Mr David S
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 959
Questions
Malawi, Orphans 271–2
Palliative care, Lancashire 479w

***Barrow, Mr David S**—continued*
Voluntary organisations, Contracts 324–5w

Boswell, Mr Tim
Questions
Career development loans 840w
Developing countries, Elections 269
Erasmus 1018w
State retirement pensions 434w
Wind power, Ministry of Defence 1044w

Bottomley, Peter
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (18.03.2008) 818, 838–40
Questions
Alcoholic drinks, Misuse 1137w
Armed forces, Inheritance tax 11w
Schools, Standards 601
Treaty of Lisbon, Referendums 647w

Bournemouth
Primary education 183–4w, 309w
Transport 530–1w

Bournemouth Borough Council Bill (HL) 2006–07
Chamber Debates
2R order read (13.03.2008) 391, (20.03.2008) 1063

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy
see BSE

Bovine tuberculosis
(18.03.2008) 198–205wh
Disease control 415–6w

***Bradshaw, Ben**, *Minister of State and Minister for the South West, Dept of Health*
Chamber Debates
Accident and emergency departments (12.03.2008) 386–90
Chippenham Hospital (18.03.2008) 900–4
Westminster Hall Debates
Nursing and Midwifery Council (11.03.2008) 49–51wh
Written Statements
Health services, Regulation 60ws
NHS, Marketing 66ws
Questions
Accident and emergency departments 254w, 736w
Accident and emergency departments, Admissions 546w
Advertising, Dept of Health 738w
Ambulance services, East Sussex 254–5w
Ambulance services, Hertfordshire 740w
Ambulance services, Manpower 466w
Ambulance services, Standards 466–7w
Barking Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust, Finance 1138w
Barnet Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust, Standards 996w
Breast cancer, Screening 996w
Chippenham Hospital 745
Civil Service Appeal Board, Dept of Health 995–6w
Cost effectiveness, Dept of Health 264–6w
Databases, Dept of Health 468w
Dental services 742–3, 990–1w
Discrimination, Dept of Health 1311w
Ear nose and throat, Surgery 266w
East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust, Finance 470w
Empty property, Dept of Health 996w
General practitioners 267–8w, 998w
General practitioners, Conditions of employment 268w, 991w
General practitioners, Lancashire 756–7w
General practitioners, Rural areas 268w

***Bradshaw, Ben**,—continued*
General practitioners, Working hours 740–1w, 991w, 998w
Health centres 481w, 1008w
Health centres, Bassetlaw 992w
Health centres, Rural areas 743–4
Health centres, Tamworth 741w
Health services 998–1000w
Health services, Greater London 742w
Health services, Private sector 742–3w
Health trainers 1141–4w
Hearing impaired, Dept of Health 1144w
Hospitals, Parking 1145w
Hospitals, Waiting lists 273–4w, 736–7, 743–4w, 757–8w, 1145w
Internet, Dept of Health 1138w
Lancaster Royal Infirmary 1148–9w
Land, Dept of Health 737w
Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust, Manpower 996w
Medical records, Data protection 744w
NHS, Disciplinary proceedings 992w
NHS, Email 1146w
NHS, Finance 741–2w, 744–56w, 1140w
NHS, Geographical information systems 755w
NHS, Information and communications technology 475–7w
NHS, Procurement 743
NHS, Standards 996w
NHS Direct 1005w
NHS Local Improvement Finance Trust 475w
NHS treatment centres, Horton 1144w
North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust, Standards 1003w
Nursing and Midwifery Council 272w, 550–1w
Nutrition, Health services 477w
Official cars, Dept of Health 1310w
Older workers, Dept of Health 737–8w
Patient choice schemes 273w, 1318w
Pembury Hospital 748–9, 991w
Personal medical services 269w
Plastic surgery 1319w
Property, Dept of Health 738–9w
South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust, Finance 996w
Surgery 755–6w, 758w
Torbay Hospital, Parking 553w
Torbay Hospital, Waiting lists 759–60w
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust 760–4w
Western Cheshire Primary Care Trust, Dental services 996–7w
Wind power, Dept of Health 763w
Written questions, Dept of Health 739w, 1001w

Brady, Mr Graham
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 323, 335, 342, 357–60
Westminster Hall Debates
Woodhead railway line (11.03.2008) 65wh
Questions
Aviation, Sustainable development 209–10w
Exservicemen, Employment schemes 458–9w
Exservicemen, Teachers 195w
Schools, Inspections 609–10

Brake, Tom
Westminster Hall Debates
Community policing (19.03.2008) 238–41wh
Questions
Armed forces, Cadets 289–90w
Asylum, Iraq 801w

***Brake, Tom**—continued*
Bankruptcy, Greater London 837–8w
Council housing, Sutton 281
Fuel poverty, Greater London 249w
Genetics, Databases 1069, 1282w
Information and communications technology, Disabled 438w
Information and communications technology, Police 350–1w
Manpower, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 1017w
Prison accommodation 127–8

Brazier, Mr Julian
Chamber Debates
National security (19.03.2008) 938
Questions
Children, Asylum 173–5w

Breast cancer
257w
Barnet 996w
Screening 996w

Breast feeding
736–7w

Breed, Mr Colin
Chamber Debates
Northern Rock, Nationalisation (10.03.2008) 26, 59–60
Westminster Hall Debates
Water charges (18.03.2008) 152wh

***Brennan, Kevin**, *Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Children Schools and Families*
Written Statements
Special educational needs 19–20ws
Questions
Advertising, Dept for Children Schools and Families 403w
Carbon emissions, Dept for Children Schools and Families 1154w
Child prostitution 175w
Children, Abuse 1067w
Children, Autism 1068w
Children, Day care 591w
Children, Disabled 591w
Children, Forced marriage 1069–71w
Children, Protection 1071w
Christmas, Dept for Children Schools and Families 403w
Contact orders 298w
Contracts, Dept for Children Schools and Families 615–6
Cost effectiveness, Dept for Children Schools and Families 404w
Data protection, Dept for Children Schools and Families 403–4w
Databases, Dept for Children Schools and Families 404w
Education, Disadvantaged 593w
Educational psychology 1072w
Health education, Alcoholic drinks 182w, 901w
Health insurance, Dept for Children Schools and Families 406w
Information and communications technology, Dept for Children Schools and Families 176w, 603–5, 900w
Information officers, Dept for Children Schools and Families 594w
Internet, Dept for Children Schools and Families 404w, 1071w, 1154w
Intimidation, Dept for Children Schools and Families 406w
Leave, Dept for Children Schools and Families 405w
Official cars, Dept for Children Schools and Families 593w
Older workers, Dept for Children Schools and Families 405w

Brennan, Kevin,—*continued*
Operating costs, Dept for Children Schools and Families 183w
Plants, Dept for Children Schools and Families 593w
Primary education, School meals 406w
Public expenditure, Dept for Children Schools and Families 300–2w, 1072w
Pupil exclusions 594w, 1155–8w
Pupil exclusions, Alcoholic drinks 1073–5w, 1155–6w
Pupil exclusions, Offensive weapons 1155–6w
Pupils, Absenteeism 1157w
Pupils, Hay fever 1075w
Pupils, Intimidation 608–9
Pupils, Part-time employment 901w
Schools, Crimes of violence 615
Schools, Sports 904w, 1075–6w
Sexual harassment, Dept for Children Schools and Families 594w
Sick pay, Dept for Children Schools and Families 405–6w
Special educational needs 192–3w, 1079w
Special educational needs, Hearing impaired 594w
Teachers, Conduct 195w
Translation services, Dept for Children Schools and Families 907–8w
Written questions, Government responses 1159w
Young people, Dept for Children Schools and Families 405w
Young people, Sports 413w
Youth services, Tamworth 596w

Brent
Local government finance 279

Bridging NewcastleGateshead
Finance 578w

British Airports Authority
Landing charges 445–6w

British Broadcasting Corporation
see BBC

British Coal Corporation
Assets 978w

British Irish Council
1325w

British nationality
143, 145, 784w, 806w
Assessments 72–3w

British overseas territories
Armed forces 649w
Business 1011w

British Waterways Board
Finance 34–5w

Broadcasting
Disabled 1060–1w

Broads Authority Bill 2006–07
Chamber Debates
3R order read (13.03.2008) 391, (20.03.2008) 1063

Brofiscin quarry
Hazardous substances 43w, 814–5w, 1294–5w, 1297–8w

Brokenshire, James
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 965
Questions
Acceptable behaviour contracts 926–7w
Alcoholic drinks, Misuse 310w, 465–6w, 926w, 993–5w
Alcoholic drinks, Young people 312w
Antisocial behaviour, Fixed penalties 880w

Brokenshire, James—*continued*
Barking Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust, Finance 1138w
Crime, Retail trade 927w, 934w
Crime prevention, Crimes of violence 935w, 1249w
Crime prevention, Domestic violence 1250w
Crime prevention, Young people 409w, 1080w
Drugs, Misuse 549w
Drugs, Prisons 872w
Drugs, Rehabilitation 1275–6w
Firearms, Crime 935w, 1251–2w
Firearms, Licensing 1259w
Firearms, Prices 1250–1w
Individual support orders 932w
Information and communications technology, Dept for Children Schools and Families 603–4
Information and communications technology, Dept for Work and Pensions 17w
Information and communications technology, Home Office 608w, 785w
Legislation, Home Office 786–7w
Licensed premises 312w
Metals, Exports 679–80w
Methadone 271w
NHS Local Improvement Finance Trust 475w
Offensive weapons, Schools 919w
Prostitution 1261w
Sexual offences, Crime prevention 1262w
Sexual offences, Registration 1262w
Sexual offences, Victim support schemes 1263w
Theft, Metals 936w
Theft, Motor vehicles 936–7w
Vandalism, Buses 1263–4w
VAT, Registration 1221–2w
Young offenders 386w

Brooke, Mrs Annette L.
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 977
Westminster Hall Debates
Disabled, Poverty (11.03.2008) 4wh
Questions
Angling 219w
Cancer 716w
Cancer, Per capita costs 667–8w
Car allowances 532w
General practitioners, Working hours 740
NHS, Finance 749–56w
Special educational needs, Textbooks 919

Brown, Rt Hon Gordon, *Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service*
Chamber Debates
Brussels Summit (EC) (17.03.2008) 617–9, 621–31
National security (19.03.2008) 925–9, 932–41
Questions
Armed forces, Beef 281
Armed forces, Uniforms 279–80
Biofuels 922–3
Budgets 277
Bus services, Greater London 279
Carbon emissions 281
Chequers 1009w
Children, Poverty 274
Children, Protection 919
Community support officers, Greater London 280
Compensation, Industrial diseases 276, 919
Council housing, Sutton 281

Brown, Rt Hon Gordon,—*continued*
Devolution, Northern Ireland 275–6, 282
Domestic visits, Ministry of Defence 1133–4w
Driving, Disqualification 920
Fairtrade initiative, Prime Minister 539w
Flood control, Finance 282
Foot and mouth disease, Pirbright 282–3
Forced marriage 283–4
GCE A-level 917–8
Gift aid 923–4
Housing, Greater London 918
Housing, Low incomes 921–2
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill (HL) 2007–08, Free votes 277–8, 917
Identity cards 917
Immigration, Gurkhas 916
Iran, Deportation 922
Iraq, Peacekeeping operations 916
Labour Party, Trade unions 279
Lincolnshire Police, Finance 921
Local government finance, Brent 279
London Underground, Public private partnerships 918–9
Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Industrial disputes 278
Ministerial policy advisors, Prime Minister 449w
Ministers, Official residences 449–50w, 1009–10w
Mugabo, Adela Mahoro 922
NHS, Finance 278
Northern Rock, Nationalisation 924
Official engagements, Prime Minister 273–4, 914
Olympic Games 2012 920
Pensions, Prime Minister 539w
Political parties, Finance 276, 922
Post offices, Closures 920–1, 923
Prostate cancer 277
Public expenditure 921
Regeneration, Urban areas 924
Romania 450w
Special educational needs, Textbooks 919
Sudan, Armed conflict 274–5
Sudan, Overseas aid 280
Sure start programme, Finance 916–7
10 Downing Street, Visits 449w
Tibet, Politics and government 915
Unemployment 915
Vocational training 280–1
Written questions, Prime Minister 1009w
Young people, Employment 914–5
Young people, Training 282

Brown, Lyn
Questions
Prisons, Drugs 133

Brown, Mr Russell
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 348–9, 370, 379–82
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 966
Questions
Local income tax 887w
Local income tax, Scotland 887–8w

Browne, Rt Hon Desmond, *Secretary of State for Defence and Secretary of State for Scotland*
Written Statements
Armed forces, Pay 65–6ws
EC defence policy 8ws
Reserve forces 64–5ws
Service Prosecuting Authority, Public appointments 65ws
Questions
Afghanistan, Peacekeeping operations 10w, 808w, 1034w

Browne, Rt Hon Desmond,—*continued*
Afghanistan, Politics and government 1034w
Armed forces, Uniforms 1042–3w
AWE Aldermaston, Protest 1039w
AWE Aldermaston, Safety 814w
Ballistic missile defence 14–5w
Data protection, Ministry of Defence 12w
EC defence policy 656w, 1167–8w
Iraq, Detainees 1306w
Iraq, Peacekeeping operations 14w, 656–7w, 811–2w, 1171w
Mousa, Baha 1169w
Navy, Data protection 812–3w
Nuclear weapons, Materials 813w
Official engagements, Ministry of Defence 15–5w
Official engagements, Scotland Office 2–3w

Browne, Jeremy
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (18.03.2008) 772, 777–82, 802–4, 816, 826
Questions
Advertising, Dept for Children Schools and Families 403w
Advertising, Dept for Communities and Local Government 398w
Advertising, Dept for Work and Pensions 1393–4w
Advertising, Dept of Health 738w
Advertising, Home Office 928w
Domestic accidents 226–7w
Government Car and Despatch Agency, Contracts 9w
Housing, Construction 59–60w
Housing revenue accounts 401w
Information officers, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 843w
Motor vehicles, Ministry of Defence 293w
Office for National Statistics, Finance 620w
Official residences, Cabinet Office 324w
Official residences, Dept for Work and Pensions 1060w
Public sector, Job creation 888–92w
Regional development agencies, Complaints 536–8w
Regional development agencies, Derelict land 621w
Regional development agencies, Expenditure 1228–30w
Regional development agencies, Pay 29–32w
Regional development agencies, Visits abroad 31w
Regional ministers, Official engagements 65w
Terrorism, Stop and search 676–7w
Travel, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 39w
Travel, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 851–2w
Travel, Dept for Transport 211w, 1113w
Travel, Ministry of Defence 293w
Travel, Ministry of Justice 628w
Visits abroad, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 851–2w
Written questions, Government responses 418–9w

Browning, Mrs Angela
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (13.03.2008) 431, 443, 464, 478–82, 485, 498
Questions
Bail accommodation and support service 376–7w

Browning, Mrs Angela—*continued*
Energy performance certificates 964w

Bruce, Rt Hon Malcolm
Chamber Debates
National security (19.03.2008) 939
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 966, 974–5
Questions
Palestinians, Overseas aid 267

Brussels Summit (EC)
Ministerial statements (17.03.2008) 617–31

Bryant, Mr Chris
Chamber Debates
Brussels Summit (EC) (17.03.2008) 626
Budget March 2008 (13.03.2008) 431, 434, 438, 441
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 153
Questions
Corruption 1071
Licensing laws 134w
Olympic Games 2012, Finance 18
Prisons 140
S4C 14–5

BSE
Disease control 35w

Buck, Ms Karen
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (13.03.2008) 431–2, 438, 442, 465, 472–8
Questions
Children, Day care 299w, 591w
Disadvantaged, Education 593w
Disadvantaged, Pupils 917w
General certificate of secondary education 910w
Jobseeker's allowance, Disqualification 432–3w
Secondary education, Greater London 919w, 1079w

Bucklow of Carlisle Committee
see Business Appointments Advisory Committee

Budget March 2008
(12.03.2008) 299–382, (13.03.2008) 430–505, (17.03.2008) 635–716, (18.03.2008) 757–893
Ministerial statements (12.03.2008) 285–98

Budgets
277

Building alterations
Housing 61w

Building regulations
55–6ws

Building schools for the future programme
172–4w, 188w, 901–6w

Buildings
Cabinet Office 863w
Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 1286–92w
Dept for Work and Pensions 1159w
Schools 1414w

Bulgaria
Immigration 349w

Bullingdon Prison
Extradition 352w

Bullying
see Intimidation

Buprenorphine
Prisons 26–8ws

Burden, Richard
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 956, 981–4
Questions
Palestinians, Overseas aid 266

Burgon, Colin
Questions
Colombia, Ecuador 291w, 328–9w
Iraq, Peacekeeping operations 713w

Burma
722–5w
Arms trade 858–9w
Asylum 859w
Ethnic groups 636–7w
Overseas aid 625–6w
Sanctions 637w

Burnham, Rt Hon Andy, Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport
Written Statements
Television, Licensing 2ws
Questions
Arts, Warrington 835–6w
BBC, Sponsorship 1358–9w
Convergence Think Tank 11–2, 137w, 1045w
Correspondence, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 316w
Culture, Education 6–7, 681w, 835–7w, 1359w
Culture, Olympic Games 2012 4–5
Departmental responsibilities, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 13, 317w
Digital broadcasting 1–3
Digital broadcasting, Sight impaired 1360–1w
Digital broadcasting, Swansea 1360w
Digital switchover help scheme 140–1w
Leisure, Warrington 322w, 837w
Licensing laws 14, 16
Local authorities, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 321w
Official engagements, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 836w
Official visits, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 317–8w
Olympic Games, China 13–5
Public appointments, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 318–20w
Public expenditure, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 1360w
S4C 12–5
Sports, Chorley 15
Sports, Facilities 837w
Sports, Females 1364w
Sports, Finance 1054–5w
Sports, Schools 1364w
Television, Advertising 149–50w
Television, Licensing 1056w
Television channels, Irish 149w
Tourism, Rural areas 17
Written questions, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 319w

Burns, Mr Simon
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 971, 974
Questions
Females, Politics and government 1074
Pharmacy, Opening hours 758w
Written questions 1078, 1278w

Burrowes, David
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (13.03.2008) 502

***Burrowes, David**—continued*
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 179
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 1023
Questions
Children, Day care 611
Drug seizures 339w
Holloway Prison, Disciplinary proceedings 869w
Prison accommodation 128
Prisoners, Death 871–2w
Stamp duty land tax 238w

Burstow, Mr Paul
Questions
Schools, Greater London 177w

Burt, Alistair
Chamber Debates
Byng, John (19.03.2008) 1050
Commonwealth (20.03.2008) 1141, 1156–62
Westminster Hall Debates
Developing countries, Water (19.03.2008) 256–9wh, 272–3wh, 276wh

Burt, Lorely
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 321, 330, 333
Questions
Hospitals, Cleaning services 747–8

Bury
Local government finance 53–4w

Bus lanes
Motorcycles 439–40w

Bus services
Concessions 440–1w, 526–7w, 531–2w, 765–6w, 945–6w, 953w, 1376w
Finance 28ws
Greater London 279
Kent 1376–7w
Peterborough 945–6w
Rural areas 441w
Wales 440–1w

Buses
Driving offences 1377w
Vandalism 79w, 1263–4w

Business
British overseas territories 1011w
Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 218w
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 840w
Education 679w
Higher education 1023–4w

Business Appointments Advisory Committee
98w

Business interests
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation 1211w

Business resource efficiency and waste programme
51–2w

Business statements
411–27, 1083–97

Butler, Dawn
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 1001, 1008

Buxton
Magistrates' courts 1193w

Byers, Rt Hon Stephen
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (13.03.2008) 463–9, 473, 497

Byng, John
Petitions (19.03.2008) 1050

***Byrne, Liam,** Minister of State and Minister for the West Midlands, Home Office and the Treasury*
Chamber Debates
Border and Immigration Agency (20.03.2008) 1187–90
Questions
Advertising, Home Office 928w
Asylum 336–7w (477 5–6mc), 795–6w
Asylum, Iraq 348–9w, 355–6w, 801w
Asylum, Latin America 337–8w
Border and Immigration Agency, Advertising 338–9w
Borders, Personal records 344w
British nationality 784w, 806w
British nationality, Assessments 72–3w
Correspondence, Home Office 783–4w, 801w
Cost effectiveness, Home Office 784w
Deportation 409w, 791w
Deportation, Offenders 349–51w
Deportation, Police custody 791–2w
Detention centres 75w, 348w
Detention centres, Health services 342w
Disciplinary proceedings, Home Office 341w
English language, Home Office 792w
Entry clearances 930w
Entry clearances, Children 792w
Entry clearances, Offenders 792w
Entry clearances, Overseas students 350w, 360w
Entry clearances, Sports competitors 793–5w
Equality, Home Office 785w
Fairtrade initiative, Home Office 74w
Flags, Home Office 343w
Foreign workers, Domestic service 797–8w
Foreign workers, Restaurants 343–4w
Illegal immigrants 72w
Illegal immigrants, Deportation 347–8w
Illegal immigrants, Palliative care 338w
Immigrants, Housing 799–800w
Immigration 75w, 799–800w, 802w
Immigration, Balkans 796–7w
Immigration, Eurostar 800w
Immigration, Pakistan 795w
Immigration, Romania 349w
Immigration, South Asia 359w
Immigration controls 797w
Immigration officers 796w
Immigration officers, Crimes of violence 798–9w
Immigration officers, Manpower 798w
Impact assessments, Home Office 785w
Information and communications technology, Home Office 785w
Internet, Home Office 786w
Labour turnover, Home Office 786w
Marketing, Home Office 789–90w
Members, Correspondence 76w, 349w, 801w
Official residences, Home Office 802–3w
Overseas students 1024–5w
Plants, Home Office 787–8w
Polygamy 805–6w
Private finance initiative, Home Office 341–2w
Property, Home Office 788w
Public expenditure, Home Office 788–90w
Sexual harassment, Home Office 358w
Shropshire, Home Office 358–9w
Television, Home Office 359w
Terrorism 677w
Translation services, Home Office 790–1w

***Byrne, Liam,**—continued*
Written questions, Government responses 783–4w, 801w

Cabinet Office
Abbott Mead Vickers 322w
Advertising 323–4w
Aviation 1300w
Buildings 863w
Civil Service Appeal Board 588w
Data protection 1300w
Departmental expenditure limits 707w
Discrimination 1301w
Fairtrade initiative 589w
Industrial disputes 864w
Industrial health and safety 590w
Official residences 324w
Official visits 589w
Older workers 589w
Pensions 589w
Planning permission 865w
Plants 324w
Plastic bags 865w
Resignations 1301w

Cabinet papers
Freedom of information 323w

Cable, Mr Vincent
Chamber Debates
Northern Rock, Nationalisation (10.03.2008) 36–41
Questions
Bank services, Liechtenstein 115–6w
Information and communications technology, Dept for Children Schools and Families 176w
Information and communications technology, Treasury 883w
Taxation, Pensions 1218–9w

Cabotage
441w

Cadets
Armed forces 289–90w, 1163w

***Cairns, David,** Minister of State, Scotland Office*
Questions
Correspondence, Scotland Office 525w
Discrimination, Scotland Office 957w
Eurostar, Scotland Office 526w
Impact assessments, Scotland Office 1110w
Ipsos MORI, Scotland Office 1110w
Older workers, Scotland Office 957w
Pensions, Scotland Office 1110w
Plants, Scotland Office 525w
Press, Scotland Office 1110–1w
Property, Scotland Office 957w
Public expenditure, Scotland Office 525–6w
Television, Scotland Office 1265w
Travel, Scotland Office 526w
Written questions, Scotland Office 1w

Calor Gas
Canvey Island 624w

Cambridgeshire
Chronically sick 259w
Palliative care 551w

Cameras
Speed limits 776w

Cameron, Rt Hon David
Chamber Debates
Brussels Summit (EC) (17.03.2008) 619–21
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 299–303
National security (19.03.2008) 930–2
Questions
GCE A-level 917–8

Cameron, Rt Hon David*—*continued
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill (HL) 2007–08, Free votes 277–8, 917
Identity cards 917
Sudan, Armed conflict 274–5
Tibet, Politics and government 915

Cameroon
International assistance 281–2w

Campbell, Mr Gregory
Westminster Hall Debates
Revenue and Customs, Northern Ireland (12.03.2008) 71–3wh, 83wh, 86–7wh
Questions
Crime, Northern Ireland 539w
Disadvantaged 911
Identity and Passport Service, Belfast 410w
Palestinians, Overseas aid 266–7
Passports 410w
Prisons, Health services 1278w
Revenue and Customs, Reorganisation 892–3w
Sudan, Politics and government 285w

Campbell, Mr Ronnie
Questions
Disadvantaged 910

Cancer
716w
Drugs 1138w
Health services 81–2w, 257–8w
Per capita costs 667–8w
Screening 731–2
Urinary system 280w
Waiting lists 82–3w

Cannabis
Crime 868w
Misuse 927w

Canterbury City Council Bill 2007–08
Chamber Debates
2R order read (13.03.2008) 391, (20.03.2008) 1063

Canvey Island
Amusement arcades 128w
Calor Gas 624w
Oikos Storage 45–6w, 624w

Capital investment
Schools 188w

Capital punishment
Iran 1025w

Car allowances
532w

Carbon emissions
281, 407
Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 247w
Dept for Children Schools and Families 1154w
Dept for Communities and Local Government 695w
Housing 58w
Packaging 1127w

Carbon sequestration
Coal fired power stations 239w, 612–3w

Cardiovascular system
Screening 258–9w

Care homes
Finance 547w
Manpower 1309w

Career development loans
840w

Career structure
Doctors 747

Carers
Employment 484–5w

Carer's allowance
Pensioners 739–40w

Caribbean
Royal visits 99w, 326w, 859w

Carmichael, Mr Alistair
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 967
Questions
Business questions 422
Correspondence, Scotland Office 525w
Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Industrial disputes 278
Official hospitality, Northern Ireland Office 388w
Palestinians, Overseas aid 265–6

Carnforth
Post offices 29w

Carswell, Douglas
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 1028–9

Cash, Mr William
Chamber Debates
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 155–6, 162, 167, 181, 185, 190, 193, 196–203, 206, 244, 247, 254
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 1000

Cash dispensing
Casinos 541w

Casinos
Cash dispensing 541w
Closures 1359w
Greater Manchester 579w
Opening hours 315w
Planning permission 235w
Regeneration 10–1
Young people 1359w

Castle Point
Chronically sick 737w
Palliative care 757–8w
Winter fuel payments 23w

Catering
Environmental health 265–6w

Caton, Mr Martin
Questions
Biofuels 922–3

Cattle
Animal welfare 408–9, 730w, 1119w

Cawsey, Mr Ian
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 988–93
Westminster Hall Debates
Fire services, Humberside (18.03.2008) 182–6wh, 194wh
Questions
Business questions 1091

CDC
1268w

Cellular phones
see Mobile phones

Cemeteries
142–3, 1189–90w, 1194w

Censorship
Sudan 862w

Central Africa
Peacekeeping operations 291w

Central Media Monitoring Unit
see Media Monitoring Unit

Centre for Defence Enterprise
68–9ws

Certification quality marks
Fraud 485w

Cervical cancer
Staffordshire 547–8w

Chad
Asylum 281–2w
Overseas aid 819–20w

Challen, Mr Colin
Questions
Carbon emissions 281
Coal fired power stations 611–2w
Coal fired power stations, Carbon sequestration 612w
Coal fired power stations, Kingsnorth 239–42w, 244–6w, 614w
Schools, Admissions 916–7w

Challenger tanks
1039w
Ammunition 1176–7w
Repairs and maintenance 649w

Chapman, Mr Ben
Chamber Debates
Clatterbridge Hospital (19.03.2008) 1049
Wirral Hospital (17.03.2008) 718
Questions
Armed forces, Conditions of employment 1035w
Big Lottery Fund 1045w
Child Support Agency, Information and communications technology 1391w
Church of England, Finance 1065
Crime, Statistics 1247–8w
Departmental responsibilities, Dept of Health 744
Dermatology, Wirral 744–5
Elections, Expenditure 144
Jobcentre Plus, Telephone services 1063–4w
Leisure, Wirral 1361w
Members, Correspondence 1226–7w
National Lottery, Grants 1047w
Political parties, Finance 922
Sports, Females 8
Tolls 956–7w

Charities
863w, 883w
Political activities 323w

Charities Act 2006
Questions
1135w

Charity Commission
Finance 323w

Charity Tribunal
1135w

Chaytor, Mr David
Chamber Debates
Brussels Summit (EC) (17.03.2008) 627
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 178, 182, 186
Questions
Business questions 424–5
Departmental responsibilities, Ministry of Justice 141
Greenhouse gas emissions 395
House of Lords, Reform 141
Local government finance, Bury 53–4w
NHS, Crimes of violence 272w
Pupils, Intimidation 609
Secondary education, Admissions 1417–8w
Voluntary organisations 1134w

Chemical and biological warfare
South Africa 862w

Chequers
1009w

Cheshire
Local government 401–2w
Roads 1117w

Child benefit
716w, 886–7w
Fraud 1212w
Overseas residence 116w, 1213w

Child prostitution
175w

Child Support Agency
Compensation 424–6w
Complaints 426–8w
Information and communications technology 1391w
Manpower 1058w
Operating costs 428–9w

Child tax credit
532w

Childbirth
Peterborough 95w

Children
Abuse 298–9w, 1067w
Asylum 173–5w
Autism 1068w
Cycling 767–8w
Day care 299w, 402–3w, 591w, 611, 1068–9w
Death 1213w
Disabled 591w
Disadvantaged 1135w
Entry clearances 792w
Forced marriage 1069–71w, 1251w
Health services 990w
Human trafficking 930w
Injuries 1003w
Internet 544w
Maintenance 422–4w, 429–32w, 565–9w, 1057–8w, 1389–92w
Nutrition 273w, 995w
Poverty 274, 434–5w, 605–6, 677–9w, 832w, 912–3, 1135w, 1392w
Protection 36–9ws, 919, 1071w
Sports 1153w
Video games 135w

Children in care
Secondary education 921w

Children's centres
Ashford Kent 1071w
Loughborough 299–300w

Children's Commissioner for England
591–2w

China
Human rights 637–8w
Olympic Games 13–5, 69–70w, 315w
Press freedom 69–70w
Sudan 726–8w

China Task Force
360w

Chippenham Hospital
745, (18.03.2008) 897–904

Chlamydia
Screening 259w, 668w

Chope, Mr Christopher
Chamber Debates
Animals Act 1971 (Amendment) Bill, 2R adjourned (14.03.2008) 516
Westminster Hall Debates
Forestry Commission, Commercial activities (19.03.2008) 279–85wh
Questions
Disabled, Minimum wage 487–8w
Incapacity benefit, Dorset 1062–3w
New deal for disabled people, Dorset 827w

Chope, Mr Christopher*—*continued
Prisons, Drugs 134
Tree preservation orders 68w

Chorley
Chronically sick 259–60w
Local strategic partnerships 583w
Palliative care 478–9w
Revenue and Customs 891–2w
Sports 15

Christmas
Dept for Children Schools and Families 403w

Chronically sick
260w, 990w
Cambridgeshire 259w
Castle Point 737w
Chorley 259–60w
Eastbourne 260w
Norfolk 260w
Peterborough 261w
Shipley 95–6w

Church of England
Finance 1065

Churches
Bats 1281w
Theft 1066–7

Citizens Advice
Jobcentre Plus 577w

Citizenship
Curriculum 923–4w

Citizenship Review
Wales 816w

Civil servants
Elections 74ws
Manpower 323w
Vetting 1276w

Civil Service Appeal Board
Cabinet Office 588w
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 316w
Dept for International Development 820w
Dept of Health 995–6w
Foreign and Commonwealth Office 1025–6w
Ministry of Justice 376w
Treasury 360–1w

CJD
255–6w

Clapham
Post offices (13.03.2008) 506–12

Clapham, Mr Michael
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 948, 951, 995–7
Westminster Hall Debates
Woodhead railway line (11.03.2008) 64wh

Clappison, Mr James
Chamber Debates
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 169, 196, 210
Questions
Asylum 336–7w (477 5–6mc), 795–6w
Asylum, Latin America 337–8w
Entry clearances, Children 792w
Immigrants, Housing 799–800w, 1201w
Immigration 799–800w
Immigration controls 797w
National insurance 573–6w

Clappison, Mr James*—*continued
National insurance, Foreign workers 574–7w

Clark, Greg
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (13.03.2008) 437–8, 445, 449, (18.03.2008) 839–41
Questions
A264, East Sussex 683w
Assets 715w
Charities Act 2006 1135w
Charity Tribunal 1135w
Crime, Statistics 1246w
Departmental expenditure limits, Cabinet Office 707w
Hospital beds 743w
Licensing laws, Fees and charges 1048w
Pembury Hospital 748–9, 991w
Personal savings 719w
Poverty, Children 832w
Registration of births deaths marriages and civil partnerships 719–20w
Voluntary organisations, Finance 707–8w

Clark, Katy
Questions
Colombia, Human rights 1182w
Renewable energy 405

Clarke, Rt Hon Charles
Chamber Debates
Northern Rock, Nationalisation (10.03.2008) 41–4

Clarke, Rt Hon Kenneth
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (18.03.2008) 787–92, 850

Clarke, Rt Hon Tom
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (18.03.2008) 792–6
Westminster Hall Debates
Disabled, Poverty (11.03.2008) 9–11wh, 19wh
Questions
Continuing care 467w, 548w
Developing countries, Elections 271
Gifted children 910w
Learning disability, Advocacy 471–2w

Class sizes
Eastbourne 175w
Tamworth 913w
York 176w

Classroom assistants
Eastbourne 175w
Manpower 1424–6w
Tamworth 907w

Clatterbridge Hospital
Petitions (19.03.2008) 1049

Cleaning services
Hospitals 270w, 747–8

Clegg, Rt hon Nick
Chamber Debates
Brussels Summit (EC) (17.03.2008) 622–3
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 303–5
National security (19.03.2008) 933–4
Questions
Immigration, Gurkhas 916
Iraq, Peacekeeping operations 916
Political parties, Finance 276

Cleveland
Shoplifting 358w

Clifton-Brown, Mr Geoffrey
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 950, 1016–8

Clifton-Brown, Mr Geoffrey*—*continued
Westminster Hall Debates
Bovine tuberculosis (18.03.2008) 199–200wh
Developing countries, HIV infection (18.03.2008) 210–1wh
Questions
Energy performance certificates 57–8w
Palestinians, Overseas aid 268
UK Trade and Investment, Expenditure 989w

Climate change
Petitions (19.03.2008) 1049–50

Clinical trials
Disclosure of information 1309–10w
Seroxat 992w

Clostridium
Death 94–5w

Cluster munitions
290–1w

Clwyd, Rt Hon Ann
Chamber Debates
Brussels Summit (EC) (17.03.2008) 624
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 168
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 949
Questions
Industrial diseases, Compensation 250w, 616w, 619w

CMPi
Dept for Communities and Local Government 957w

Coaker, Vernon, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office
Westminster Hall Debates
Community policing (19.03.2008) 240wh, 243–6wh
Questions
Abandoned vehicles, Fees and charges 1111w
Acceptable behaviour contracts 926–7w
Acceptable behaviour contracts, Durham 1244–5w
Alcoholic drinks, Crime 1238–40w
Alcoholic drinks, Misuse 926w
Alcoholic drinks, Young people 1241–4w
Antisocial behaviour orders, Cornwall 1245w
Children, Abuse 298–9w
Crime 602–8w
Crime, Lincolnshire 607w
Crime, Retail trade 927w, 934w
Crime, Statistics 1246–8w
Crime, Telford 1247–9w
Crime prevention 1245w
Crime prevention, Young people 409w
Crimes of violence, Ashford Kent 1249w
Crimes of violence, Crime prevention 935w, 1249w
Detection rates, Durham 1246w
Dogs 608–9w
Domestic violence, Arrests 1249–50w
Domestic violence, Crime prevention 1250w
Domestic violence, Immigrants 73–5w
Drug seizures 339w
Drugs, Crime 1250w
Drugs, Crime prevention 1245w
Drugs, Health education 342–3w
Firearms, Crime 935w, 1251–2w
Firearms, Licensing 1259w
Firearms, Prices 1250–1w
Forced marriage, Children 1251w
Gating orders 1251–8w
Human trafficking 1258w
Hunting 1277w
Individual support orders 932w

Coaker, Vernon,*—*continued
Internet, Regulation 75w
Ismaili, Vladimir 937–8w
Licensing laws, Prosecutions 1239–40w, 1260–1w
Offensive weapons, Football 934–5w
Personation 344–8w
Police, Finance 1259–60w
Prostitution 1261w
Prostitution, Essex 352–6w
Serious Organised Crime Agency 357w
Sexual offences, Crime prevention 1262w
Sexual offences, Registration 1262w, 1264w
Sexual offences, Victim support schemes 1263w
Shoplifting, Cleveland 358w
Theft, Metals 936w
Theft, Motor vehicles 936–7w
Trespass 357–8w
Vandalism, Buses 79w, 1263–4w

Coal
Pollution control 246w

Coal fired power stations
240–1w, 248w, 611–2w
Carbon sequestration 239w, 612–3w
Environment protection 245–6w
Kingsnorth 239–46w, 613–6w, 978–9w

Coastal areas
Access 396–7
Council tax 227–8w
Culture 542–3w
Migration 1194w
Regeneration 1209–10w, 1293w
Tourism 14, 1057w

Codes of practice
Local government 94–5w

Coffey, Ms Ann
Questions
Markets, Greater London 818–9w
Water, Meters 1299–300w

Cohen, Harry
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (17.03.2008) 644, 664–9, 688
London Underground (10.03.2008) 91–5, 112
Questions
Air traffic control 209w
Anti-Terrorism Crime and Security Act 2001 936w
China, Human rights 637–8w
Humanitarian Assistance Unit 391w
Iraq, Peacekeeping operations 1186w
Marriage, Islam 124w
Mousa, Baha 1169w
Religious buildings, Valuation 1206w
Security, Hazardous substances 680w

Colchester
Pupils 187w

Cole Layer Trumble
Treasury 1213w
Valuation Office 1220w

Collective worship
Local authorities 700w

Colombia
Ecuador 291w, 328–9w
Human rights 1182w
Radioactive materials 638w

Commercial activities
Forestry Commission (19.03.2008) 279–85wh

Commission for Equality and Human Rights
see Equality and Human Rights Commission

Commission of the European Communities
see European Commission

Committee of Permanent Representatives
650–4w

Committee on the Grant of Honours Decorations and Medals
638–9w
Appeals 1026w
Public appointments 638w

Common fisheries policy
35–6w

Commonwealth
(20.03.2008) 1098–182
Armed forces 655w

Communities England
see Homes and Communities Agency

Community centres
Rural areas 227w
Valuation 958w

Community Champions Fund
864w, 1080w

Community development
974w
Arts 1357–8w

Community Fund
Tamworth 391–4w

Community orders
14–5ws, 135–7, 375w

Community policing
(19.03.2008) 223–46wh

Community Punishment and Rehabilitation Service
see National Probation Service for England and Wales

Community relations
227w
Bingo 1194w
Higher education 1019w

Community schools
Finance 1404–6w

Community support officers
Greater London 280

Compensation
Armed forces 11w
Child Support Agency 424–6w
Dept for Work and Pensions 1390–1w
Industrial diseases 250w, 276, 616w, 619w, 919
Prisoners of war 12w
Welfare tax credits 127–8w

Competition
Liquefied petroleum gas 249–50w

Complaints
Child Support Agency 426–8w
Dept for Work and Pensions 828–30w
Energy 248w
RAF Halton 813w
Regional development agencies 536–8w
Standards Board for England 701w
Treasury 362w

Compost
Non-domestic rates 227w

Computer Misuse Act 1990
Questions
Prosecutions 1223w

Computer software
Dept for Work and Pensions 430w

Computers
1016–7w
Crime 357w, 933–4w, 1277w
Ministry of Defence 1305–6w

Conditions of employment
Armed forces 1034–5w
General practitioners 268w, 991w

Conduct
Teachers 195w

Conferences
Israel 331w

Congo (Kinshasa)
see Democratic Republic of Congo

Connarty, Mr Michael
Chamber Debates
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 154, 161, 200, 215–23, 225–7, 242, 249

Conservation
Birds 1294w
Sharks 1128–9w
Wetlands 554w
Whales 408, 706–7w

Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill 2007–08
Chamber Debates
1R (10.03.2008) 118
2R* and 3R* (11.03.2008) 151
Royal Assent (20.03.2008) 1097

Constituencies
146, 150w

Construction
Housing 59–60w, 584w, 968w
Industrial accidents 206–7w
Olympic Games 2012 390w
Prisons 162w, 375–6w, 584–5w
Public sector 536w
Railways 770–1w
Training 597w

Consultants
Crossrail line 1112w
Cycling England 768w
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 841w
Fire services 697–8w
Ministry of Justice 151–2w

Consumer information
Prescription drugs 1318w

Consumers
Protection 251w

Contact orders
298w

Contamination
Blood 256–7w
Land 779w

Continuing care
467w, 548w

Contracts
Dept for Children Schools and Families 615–6
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 841w
Entry clearances 102–3w
Government Car and Despatch Agency 9w
Voluntary organisations 324–5w, 461w, 866w

Convergence Think Tank
11–2, 137w, 316w, 1045w

Convictions
Licensing laws 1260–1w
Offensive weapons 1329–38w

Convictions—continued
Rape 634–5w

Cooper, Rosie
Questions
Culture, Education 6
Domestic violence, Victim support schemes 1076
Housing, Low incomes 965–6w
Housing, VAT 895–6w
Lancashire Constabulary 803–4w
Learning disability, Voluntary organisations 1080–1w
Local government, Public participation 972w
Sure start programme, Lancashire 594w

Cooper, Rt Hon Yvette, Chief Secretary to the Treasury
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (18.03.2008) 847–52
Questions
Humber bridge, Debts 123w
Local income tax 887w
Local income tax, Scotland 887–8w
National asset register 125w
Public expenditure 126w
Public sector, Pay 125w

Co-operative Movement
Agriculture 1127w
Leicestershire 1127w

Corbyn, Jeremy
Questions
Ballistic missile defence 14–5w
Business questions 1096
Education, Finance 177w
Terrorism, Arrests 807–8w

Cormack, Sir Patrick
Questions
Bluetongue disease, Disease control 401–2
Culture, Olympic Games 2012 5

Cornwall
Antisocial behaviour orders 1245w

Coroners
375w, 1282w
Armed forces 73w, 151w, 373–4w

Corporate hospitality
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 1017w

Correspondence
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 316w
Home Office 608w, 783–4w, 801w
London Midland 1375w
Members 71–3ws, 76w, 349w, 731w, 801w, 812w, 1226–7w, 1374w, 1398–9w
Scotland Office 525w

Corruption
1033w, 1070–1
Nigeria 502w

Cost effectiveness
Dept for Children Schools and Families 404w
Dept for Communities and Local Government 228w
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 137w
Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 219w
Dept for International Development 504w
Dept for Transport 7w
Dept for Work and Pensions 1058–9w
Dept of Health 264–6w
Foreign and Commonwealth Office 100w
Government Equalities Office 1280w
Home Office 784w
Ministry of Justice 1083w

Cost effectiveness—continued
Northern Ireland Office 387–8w
Overseas aid 1181w
Public libraries 233w
Solicitor-General 200w
Treasury 362w

Cost of living
Pensioners 369–70w

Council for Learning Outside the Classroom
907w

Council housing
Equity 63w
Overcrowding 579w
Property transfer 60w, 958–9w
Sutton 281
Waiting lists 1194–5w

Council of the Isles
see British Irish Council

Council tax
1364–5w
Appeals 777w, 1213–4w
Armed forces 809w
Arrears 959–60w
Coastal areas 227–8w
Non-payment 1082w
Oxfordshire 1196w
Pensioners 778w
Second homes 694–5w
Tax collection 1195–6w
Tax rates and bands 960w, 1195–6w
Tax yields 1196w
Valuation 717w, 721w, 895w, 960w, 1196w, 1214–5w
Wales 717w, 721w, 895w, 1325w

Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rating (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006
Questions
777w

Council tax benefits
1393w

Councillors
Pay 695w

Counselling
Self-mutilation 749–50

Counter-Terrorism Bill 2007–08
Questions
73–4w

Courts
Disclosure of information 139, 150w, 672w
Prison accommodation 157w

Courts martial
455–7w

Courts Service
see HM Courts Service

Cousins, Mr Jim
Questions
Alcoholic drinks, Misuse 465–6w
Bridging NewcastleGateshead, Finance 578w
Contracts, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 841w
Entry clearances, Overseas students 350w
Manpower, Treasury 362–4w

Coventry
General certificate of secondary education 1409–10w
Licensing laws 1044–5w

Cox, Geoffrey
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (17.03.2008) 639, 678–9, 692–7, 713

Cox, Geoffrey—*continued*
Questions
Coastal areas, Migration 1194w
Local authorities, Collective worship 700w
Prisons, Drugs 133–4

Crabb, Stephen
Chamber Debates
Animals Act 1971 (Amendment) Bill, 2R adjourned (14.03.2008) 514–24, 530, 533, 537, 543, 551–3, 557–9, 562
Standing Order No 163 (14.03.2008) 513
Questions
Burma, Ethnic groups 636–7w
Burma, Sanctions 637w
China, Olympic Games 315w

Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease
see CJD

Crime
602–8w
Alcoholic drinks 1238–40w, 1270–4w
Cannabis 868w
Computers 357w, 933–4w, 1277w
Drugs 1191–2w, 1250w
Firearms 935w, 1251–2w
Lincolnshire 607w
Nature conservation 867–8w
Northern Ireland 539w
Railways 773w
Retail trade 927w, 934w
Rural areas 928w
Statistics 1246–8w
Telford 1247–9w

Crime prevention
880–1w, 1245w
Crimes of violence 935w, 1249w
Domestic violence 1250w
Drugs 1245w
Sexual offences 1262w
Young people 409w, 1080w

Crimes of violence
935w
Ashford Kent 1249w
Crime prevention 935w, 1249w
Females 1281w
Greater London 339–42w
Immigration officers 798–9w
NHS 272w
Schools 194w, 615
Sentencing 373w

Criminal investigation
793w

Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Offensive Weapons) (Amendment) Order 2008
Chamber Debates
(18.03.2008) 895

Cromwell Green Entrance
3–4w

Crossrail line
Consultants 1112w
Non-domestic rates 1206–7w

Crown Agents Holding and Realisation Board (Prescribed Day) Order 2008
Chamber Debates
(18.03.2008) 895

Crown lands and estates
Waste disposal 41w

Cuba
EC external relations 1182–3w
Foreign relations 99w

Culture
Coastal areas 542–3w
Education 6–7, 133w, 681w, 835–7w, 1359w

Culture—*continued*
Olympic Games 2012 4–5
Sponsorship 543w
West Midlands 1150w

Culture Northwest
1152–3w

Culture Online
542w

Cumbria County Council
Equal pay 960–1w

Cummings, Mr John
Questions
Acceptable behaviour contracts, Durham 1244–5w
Driving under influence, Durham 1084–6w
Housing, Easington 230w
Job creation, Durham 123w
Smoking, Durham 237w
Vandalism, Durham 1104–6w

Cunningham, Mr Jim
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (18.03.2008) 767
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 177
Questions
Adult education, Literacy 1016w
Certification quality marks, Fraud 485w
Chad, Asylum 281–2w
Charities 883w
Children, Nutrition 273w
Children, Poverty 677–9w
Developing countries, HIV infection 822w
Developing countries, Malnutrition 282–3w
Drugs, Health education 342–3w
Education, Business 679w
General certificate of secondary education, Coventry 1409–10w
Gift aid 532w
Health services, Disadvantaged 1312–3w
Higher education, Admissions 1020w
Higher education, Community relations 1019w
Licensing laws, Coventry 1044–5w
Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency, Standards 473–4w
Public transport, Antisocial behaviour 772w
Schools, Crimes of violence 615
Sudan, Overseas aid 280, 1269–70w
Sudan, Sanctions 1284–5w
Voluntary organisations, Finance 1136–7w
Voluntary work 1135–6w
Wheelchairs, Safety 484w

Curriculum
Citizenship 923–4w
Dance 616
Secondary education 1418–9w

Curtis-Thomas, Ms Claire
Chamber Debates
Commonwealth (20.03.2008) 1103, 1123–31, 1134, 1141–2, 1157, 1159, 1165, 1167, 1174–5
Questions
Health professions, Training 745–6

Custodial treatment
Young offenders 378w, 386w, 869w, 1327–9w

Cycling
767w
Children 767–8w
Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 1285–6w

Cycling—*continued*
Safety 210w

Cycling England
Consultants 768w

Cyprus
Extradition (14.03.2008) 589–96
Military bases 291–2w
Overseas trade 984w
Politics and government 639w, 1183w

Dance
Curriculum 616

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991
Questions
36w, 1119w
Prosecutions 36w

Dangerous driving
Reoffenders 869w

Darfur
see Sudan

Darling, Rt Hon Alistair, *Chancellor of the Exchequer*
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 285–98
Written Statements
Northern Rock, Nationalisation 53–4ws

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing
527w
Tolls 1377w

Data protection
Cabinet Office 1300w
Dept for Children Schools and Families 403–4w
Dept for Communities and Local Government 693w, 961w
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 543w
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 841w
Dept for International Development 1178w
Dept for Transport 7w, 684w, 768w
Dept for Work and Pensions 569w, 1394w
Dept of Health 744w
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency 443–4w
Foreign and Commonwealth Office 1183w
Government departments 914, 1300–2w
Jobcentre Plus 437–8w
Medical records 744w
Ministry of Defence 12w, 292w, 1040w
National insurance 18–9w
Navy 812–3w
Office of the Secretary of State for Wales 5w
Revenue and Customs 1013w
Social security benefits 1065w
Treasury 717w
Valuation Office 130–1w

Data Protection Act 1998
Questions
Prosecutions 1223w

Databases
Asylum and Immigration Tribunal 672w
Dept for Children Schools and Families 404w
Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 416w
Dept for Transport 768–9w
Dept for Work and Pensions 17w
Dept of Health 468w
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency 211–3w
Electoral register 1086–7w
Foreign and Commonwealth Office 640w

***Databases**—continued*
Genetics 387w, 1068–70, 1282w
Treasury 717–8w

Davey, Mr Edward
Chamber Debates
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 168, 183–92
Iraq War Inquiry Bill, 1R (20.03.2008) 1097
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 966, 979

Davidson, Mr Ian
Chamber Debates
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 152

Davies, Dai
Questions
AWE Aldermaston, Safety 814w
British Irish Council 1325w
Cabinet papers, Freedom of information 323w
Challenger tanks, Ammunition 1176–7w
Citizenship Review, Wales 816w
Depleted uranium 1167w
Derelict land 781–2w
Devolution, Wales 1325–6w
Drugs, Crime 1250w
Heating, EC law 44w
Hospitals, Wales 1326w
Housing, Carbon emissions 58w
Housing, Elderly 230w
Housing, Water 69w
Incapacity benefit 1395–6w
Land, Contamination 779w
Landfill tax 1217w
Local government, Wales 817w
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, Finance 620w
Nuclear fuel reprocessing 620w
Nuclear power, International cooperation 616w
Office for Civil Nuclear Security, Manpower 984w
Poverty, Children 1392w
Radioactive materials 983–4w
Renewable energy 253w
Sellafield, Plutonium 987–8w
Sewers 48–9w
Transport, Radioactive waste 1386w
Transport, Sustainable development 447w

Davies, David TC
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (18.03.2008) 790
Questions
Buildings, Dept for Work and Pensions 1159w
Discrimination, Cabinet Office 1301w
Discrimination, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 1046w
Discrimination, Dept for International Development 926w
Discrimination, Dept of Health 1311w
Discrimination, House of Commons 1107w
Discrimination, Leader of the House of Commons 1279w
Discrimination, Ministry of Justice 1190–1w
Discrimination, Office of the Secretary of State for Wales 816–7w
Discrimination, Scotland Office 957w
Discrimination, Treasury 1215w
Music, Finance 321w
Open prisons 374w
Prison accommodation, Shipping 129

***Davies, David TC**—continued*
Social security benefits, Fraud 1402w

Davies, Philip
Chamber Debates
Oral question time intervention (17.03.2008) 612
Questions
Borders, Personal records 344w
Chronically sick, Shipley 95–6w
Females, Politics and government 1073
Palliative care, Shipley 97–8w

Davis, Rt Hon David
Westminster Hall Debates
Fire services, Humberside (18.03.2008) 177wh, 179wh, 184wh
Questions
Alcohol disorder zones 1270w
Alcoholic drinks, Crime 1270–4w
Alcoholic drinks, Misuse 70–1w, 1270w
Alcoholic drinks, Public places 1273–5w
Alcoholic drinks, Young people 71w
Asylum and Immigration Tribunal, Databases 672w
Cannabis, Crime 868w
Cannabis, Misuse 927w
Crime, Computers 357w, 933–4w, 1277w
Crime, Rural areas 928w
Financial reporting orders 155w
Genetics, Databases 387w
Human trafficking, Children 930w
Illegal immigrants, Deportation 347–8w
Legislation, Ministry of Justice 163–5w
National security 410w
Offences against children, Reoffenders 77w
Police, Recruitment 77w
Prisons, Islam 1095w
Proceeds of crime 357w
Public relations, Home Office 929–30w
Serious Organised Crime Agency 357w
Terrorism 936w
Terrorism, Finance 934w
Terrorism, Stop and search 78w
Written questions, Government responses 1264w

Day care
Children 299w, 402–3w, 591w, 611, 1068–9w

Deafness
see Hearing impaired

Dean, Mrs Janet
Westminster Hall Debates
Community policing (19.03.2008) 236–8wh

Death
Alcoholic drinks 115w
Benzodiazepines 715–6w
Children 1213w
Clostridium 94–5w
Methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus 94–5w
Police custody 803w
Prisoners 633w, 871–2w
Students 1022w

"Debt and Reserves Management Report 2008–09"
17ws

Debt collection
163w
Powers of entry 157–8w
Standards 54w

Debts
361–2w
Humber bridge 123w

Defence
Honours 809w

***Defence**—continued*
Procurement 457w
Supply estimates (10.03.2008) 117

Defence equipment
655w, 1166w
Iraq 662–3w

Defence Equipment and Support
1304–5w

Deferred divisions
(11.03.2008) 254

Degrees
Fraud 1021w

Dementia
Health services 548w

Democratic Republic of Congo
International Criminal Court 639w

Demolition
Housing 967w

***Denham, Rt Hon John**, Secretary of State for Innovation Universities and Skills*
Written Statements
Innovation 26ws

Dental services
742–3, 990–1w
East of England 262w
Greenwich 262–3w
Morecambe 737–8w
Torbay 263–4w
Waiting lists 264w
Western Cheshire Primary Care Trust 996–7w

Department for Transport (Driver Licensing and Vehicle Registration Fees) (Amendment) Order 2008
Chamber Debates
(19.03.2008) 1048

Departmental coordination
Homelessness 431w

Departmental expenditure limits
Cabinet Office 707w

Departmental reorganisation
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 111w
Ministry of Justice 154w

Departmental responsibilities
Dept for Children Schools and Families 612
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 13, 317w
Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 405
Dept of Health 744
Minister for the West Midlands 63w
Ministry of Justice 141

Depleted uranium
1167w

Deportation
409w, 791w
Illegal immigrants 347–8w
Iran 922
Offenders 347–51w
Police custody 791–2w

Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform
Animal welfare 488w
Buildings 1286–92w
Carbon emissions 247w
Cycling 1285–6w
Drinking water 486w
Homeworking 485w
Impact assessments 485–6w
Internet 1223w

Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform*—*continued
Ipsos MORI 1226w
Kent 617–8w
Manpower 979w
Official cars 615w
Official hospitality 679w
Official visits 1223w
Pay 25–7w
Property 485w
Public expenditure 838w
Sustainable development 985w
Telephone services 979w
Temporary employment 1224w
Written questions 486w, 1223–4w
Young people 485w

Dept for Children Schools and Families
Advertising 403w
Carbon emissions 1154w
Christmas 403w
Contracts 615–6
Cost effectiveness 404w
Data protection 403–4w
Databases 404w
Departmental responsibilities 612
Health insurance 406w
Information and communications technology 176w, 603–5, 900w
Information officers 594w
Internet 404w, 1071w, 1154w
Intimidation 406w
Leave 405w
Official cars 593w
Older workers 405w
Operating costs 183w
Plants 593w
Private finance initiative 176w
Public expenditure 300–2w, 1072w
Sexual harassment 594w
Sick pay 405–6w
Translation services 907–8w
Young people 405w

Dept for Communities and Local Government
Advertising 398w
Carbon emissions 695w
CMPi 957w
Cost effectiveness 228w
Data protection 693w, 961w
Disciplinary proceedings 961w
Economic and monetary union 962–3w
Empty property 963w
Equality 1365–6w
Greater London 964w
Impact assessments 54–5w
Internet 961–2w
Ipsos MORI 968w
Manpower 962w
Marketing 1365w
National security 63w
Official cars 962w
Official visits 695w
Older workers 55w
Pay 1365–7w
Pensions 1367w
Plants 695–6w
Plastic bags 701w
Property 696w
Public expenditure 398–9w
Public participation 696w
Retirement 962w
Wind power 977w
Written questions 228w

Dept for Culture Media and Sport
Abbott Mead Vickers 540w
Civil Service Appeal Board 316w
Correspondence 316w
Cost effectiveness 137w
Data protection 543w

Dept for Culture Media and Sport*—*continued
Departmental responsibilities 13, 317w
Discrimination 1046w
Empty property 1152w
Eurostar 141w
Impact assessments 1046w
Internet 316w
Ipsos MORI 681w
Local authorities 321w
Official cars 1151w
Official engagements 836w
Official hospitality 1151w
Official visits 317–8w, 543–4w
Older workers 138w
Pay 138w, 1151–2w
Pensions 544w
Plants 138w
Property 138w
Public appointments 318–20w
Public expenditure 1045–6w, 1360w
Publications 394w
Recruitment 139w
Sick leave 319w
Television 322w (475 1–2mc)
Translation services 140w
Travel 139–40w
Wind power 546w
Written questions 319w

Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs
Advertising 36–7w
Business 218w
Cost effectiveness 219w
Databases 416w
Departmental responsibilities 405
Disciplinary proceedings 37w
Enviros Consulting 702w
Equality 1119–20w
Homeworking 219–20w
Official hospitality 37–8w
Orders and regulations 421w
Pay 220–1w
Property 1120–2w
Public bodies 34w
Public expenditure 38w, 417w
Retirement 417–8w
Sick leave 418w
Temporary employment 418w
Travel 39–40w
Waste disposal 221w
Written questions 419w
York 38–9w
Young people 37w

Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills
Absenteeism 109w
Business 840w
Consultants 841w
Contracts 841w
Corporate hospitality 1017w
Data protection 841w
Departmental reorganisation 111w
Disclosure of information 109–10w
Equality 842w
Freedom of information 842w
Homeworking 842w
Impact assessments 843w
Information and communications technology 109w, 843w
Information officers 843w
Kent 852w
Labour turnover 843–4w
Manpower 1017w
Marketing 1017–8w
Official cars 598w
Official hospitality 844w
Official secrets 111w
Older workers 110w
Pay 844–6w, 1018w
Postal services 853w

Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills*—*continued
Private finance initiative 846w
Property 110w
Public bodies 853w
Public expenditure 846–8w
Railways 853w
Secondment 847–50w
Sexual harassment 853–4w
Shropshire 854w
Sick leave 849w
Sustainable development 849–50w
Tolls 857w
Translation services 114w, 850–1w
Travel 851–2w
Visits abroad 851–2w
Young people 110w, 857w

Dept for International Development
Advertising 283w
Animal welfare 505w
Civil Service Appeal Board 820w
Cost effectiveness 504w
Data protection 1178w
Discrimination 926w
Internet 1178w
Official cars 504w
Official visits 819w
Plants 504w
Public expenditure 819–21w
Publications 1269w
Recruitment 283w
Sick leave 821w

Dept for Transport
Cost effectiveness 7w
Data protection 7w, 684w, 768w
Databases 768–9w
Drinking water 446w, 527w
Empty property 1377–8w
Equality 946w
Eurostar 210w
Freedom of information 946w
Grants 1388w
Hearing impaired 1379w
Impact assessments 8w
Ipsos MORI 1385–6w
Itis Holdings 949–52w
Official cars 8w
Official hospitality 442–3w
Official visits 1378–9w
Pay 210–1w
Pensions 1112–3w
Plants 211w
Public expenditure 443w, 1379w
Television 448w
Translation services 443w
Travel 211w, 693w, 1113w
Wind power 10w

Dept for Work and Pensions
Advertising 1393–4w
Buildings 1159w
Compensation 1390–1w
Complaints 828–30w
Computer software 430w
Cost effectiveness 1058–9w
Data protection 569w, 1394w
Databases 17w
Disciplinary proceedings 1399w
Dismissal 824–5w
Eurostar 1160–1w
Homeworking 1059w
Information and communications technology 17w, 1059–60w
Internet 569w
Manpower 569w, 825w
Official residences 1060w
Older workers 825w
Pensions 1060w
Political impartiality 832w
Property 825–6w

***Dept for Work and Pensions**—continued*
Public participation 1060w
Recruitment 1394w
Sick leave 1159–60w
Sick pay 1394–5w
Television 832–3w
Travel 1160w
Vetting 1402–3w

Dept of Health
Advertising 738w
Civil Service Appeal Board 995–6w
Cost effectiveness 264–6w
Data protection 744w
Databases 468w
Departmental responsibilities 744
Discrimination 1311w
Empty property 996w
Equality 83–4w
Hearing impaired 1144w
Impact assessments 468w
Internet 1138w
Land 737w
Official cars 1310w
Older workers 737–8w
Property 738–9w
Wind power 763w
Written questions 739w, 1001w

Deputy Prime Minister
Plastic bags 865w

Derby
Pupils 1157w

Derelict land
781–2w
Regional development agencies 621w

Dermatology
Wirral 744–5

Detainees
Afghanistan 858w, 1306w
Iraq 1306w

Detection rates
Durham 1246w

Detention centres
75w, 348w
Health services 342w

Developing countries
Education 504–5w
Elections 269–71
Food 283–4w
Higher education 111–2w
HIV infection (18.03.2008) 206–13wh, 273, 284w, 501–2w, 821–2w, 1179–80w
Malaria 503–4w
Malnutrition 282–3w
Olympic Games 2012 70w
Trade 502w
Tuberculosis 626w
Water (19.03.2008) 256–78wh

Devine, Jim
Chamber Debates
Organs, Donors (19.03.2008) 1052
Westminster Hall Debates
Nursing and Midwifery Council (11.03.2008) 46–9wh
Questions
Nursing and Midwifery Council 272w, 550–1w

Devolution
202w
Northern Ireland 275–6, 282
Wales 6w, 1325–6w

***Dhanda, Parmjit**, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Dept for Communities and Local Government*

***Dhanda, Parmjit**,—continued*
Westminster Hall Debates
Fire services, Humberside (18.03.2008) 195–7wh
Written Statements
Regional planning and development, North West 68ws
Questions
Advertising, Dept for Communities and Local Government 398w
Carbon emissions, Dept for Communities and Local Government 695w
CMPi, Dept for Communities and Local Government 957w
Community development 974w
Community relations 227w
Community relations, Bingo 1194w
Cost effectiveness, Dept for Communities and Local Government 228w
Councillors, Pay 695w
Data protection, Dept for Communities and Local Government 693w, 961w
Debt collection, Standards 54w
Departmental responsibilities, Minister for the West Midlands 63w
Disciplinary proceedings, Dept for Communities and Local Government 961w
Domestic waste, Waste disposal 1367–8w
Economic and monetary union, Dept for Communities and Local Government 962–3w
Empty property, Dept for Communities and Local Government 963w
Equality 925w
Fire prevention 55–6w
Fire services 696w
Fire services, Consultants 697–8w
Fire services, Essex 1198–9w
Fire services, Finance 1368–71w
Fire services, Floods 1371–2w
Fires 56w
Fires, Grasslands 698–700w
Government Office for London, Information and communications technology 1199w
Government Office for London, Powers 57w
Greater London, Dept for Communities and Local Government 964w
Holocaust Memorial Day 699w
Housing, Armed forces 964–5w
Housing, West Midlands 66–7w, 232w
Internet, Dept for Communities and Local Government 961–2w
Ipsos MORI, Dept for Communities and Local Government 968w
Leisure, Facilities 968–70w
Liverpool City Council, Standards 699w
Local authorities, Collective worship 700w
Local government, Public participation 693–4w, 700w, 972w
Local government, Standards 701w
Manpower, Dept for Communities and Local Government 962w
Marketing, Dept for Communities and Local Government 1365w
Members, Correspondence 1374w
National security, Dept for Communities and Local Government 63w
Official cars, Dept for Communities and Local Government 962w
Official engagements, Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber 68–9w
Official visits, Dept for Communities and Local Government 69w
Older workers, Dept for Communities and Local Government 55w

***Dhanda, Parmjit**,—continued*
Pay, Dept for Communities and Local Government 1365–7w
Pensions, Dept for Communities and Local Government 1367w
Plants, Dept for Communities and Local Government 695–6w
Plastic bags, Dept for Communities and Local Government 701w
Property, Dept for Communities and Local Government 696w
Public expenditure, Dept for Communities and Local Government 398–9w
Public participation, Dept for Communities and Local Government 696w
Regional European offices 252–3w, 974–5w
Regional ministers 65w
Regional ministers, Official engagements 65w
Regional planning and development 970w, 975w
Regional planning and development, South East 237w
Regional resilience forums, Finance 975w
Retirement, Dept for Communities and Local Government 962w
Roads, Lighting 1373–4w
Smoking, Durham 237w
Transport, Yorkshire and the Humber 67w
Village halls 227w
Village halls, Finance 1212w
Voluntary organisations, Ethnic groups 234w
Written questions, Dept for Communities and Local Government 228w

Diabetes
Prisoners 1355w

Diego Garcia
102w
Rendition 1027w, 1184w, 1284w

Diesel fuel
Excise duties 884w

Dietary supplements
EC law 997–8w, 1310–1w

Dieticians
Greater London 468–70w

Digital broadcasting
1–3
Sight impaired 1360–1w
Swansea 1360w

Digital switchover help scheme
140–1w

Digital technology
Valuation Office 130w, 895w

Diplomatic service
Equatorial Guinea 103w
Fees and charges 40–8ws
Japan 332w
Pakistan 332w
Russia 69ws
South America 106w
Written questions 102w

Direct mail
247w

Director of Service Prosecutions
see Service Prosecuting Authority

Disabled
Broadcasting 1060–1w
Children 591w
Exservicemen 14w, 1168w
Housing 400w

***Disabled**—continued*
Information and communications technology 438w
Minimum wage 487–8w
Ministry of Defence 1167w
Poverty (11.03.2008) 1–22wh
Railway stations 772–3w, 1115w

Disadvantaged
909–11, 913–4, 1134w
Children 1135w
Education 593w, 899w
Elderly 866w
Government assistance 1072–3w
Health services 746–7, 1001–2w, 1312–3w
Pupils 917w
Rural areas 905–7

Disciplinary proceedings
Dept for Communities and Local Government 961w
Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 37w
Dept for Work and Pensions 1399w
Holloway Prison 899w
Home Office 341w, 929w
NHS 992w
Teachers 194w

Disclosure of information
Clinical trials 1309–10w
Courts 139, 150w, 672w
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 109–10w

Discrimination
Age 523w, 1280w
Cabinet Office 1301w
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 1046w
Dept for International Development 926w
Dept of Health 1311w
House of Commons 1107w
Leader of the House of Commons 1279w
Ministry of Justice 1190–1w
Office of the Secretary of State for Wales 816–7w
Scotland Office 957w
Treasury 1215w

Disease control
Bluetongue disease 401–3, 940w, 1119w
Bovine tuberculosis 415–6w
BSE 35w
Foot and mouth disease 9–11ws, 406–7, 943w

Diseases
Bees 217–8w

Dismissal
Dept for Work and Pensions 824–5w
Jobcentre Plus 1397–8w

Dismore, Mr Andrew
Chamber Debates
Animals Act 1971 (Amendment) Bill, 2R adjourned (14.03.2008) 517–8, 520–8, 532, 534–44, 546–87
Westminster Hall Debates
Health services, Elderly (13.03.2008) 115–26wh, 139wh, 145–50wh
Questions
British nationality 806w
Fires 56w
Low alcohol drinks, Wines 491w, 680–1w
Middle East, Armed conflict 493w, 643w

Disqualification from Parliament (Taxation Status) Bill 2007–08
Chamber Debates
Order for resuming adjourned 2R read (14.03.2008) 588

Djanogly, Mr Jonathan
Questions
India, Homicide 103–4w

Dobbin, Jim
Questions
Abortion, Maternal mortality 1308w
Antidepressants 270–1w, 670w
Clinical trials, Disclosure of information 1309–10w
Pregnant women, Drugs 255w, 671–2w

Dobson, Rt Hon Frank
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (18.03.2008) 779, 786, 800–4
Northern Rock, Nationalisation (10.03.2008) 32–6, 41, 46, 66
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 972
Questions
Injuries, Children 1003w
Injuries, Rugby 1003w

Doctors
Career structure 747

Dodds, Mr Nigel
Chamber Debates
National security (19.03.2008) 941
Westminster Hall Debates
Revenue and Customs, Northern Ireland (12.03.2008) 72wh, 75wh
Questions
Alcoholic drinks, Belfast 1277–8w
Parades, Belfast 733w

Dogs
608–9w
Electric shock equipment 941w
Licensing 941w
Noise 941–2w
Postal workers 1292w
Registration 40w

Dolphins
Moray Firth 1123w

Domestic accidents
226–7w

Domestic service
Foreign workers 797–8w

Domestic violence
Arrests 1249–50w
Crime prevention 1250w
Immigrants 73–5w, 1279–80w
Probation 380–1w
Prosecutions 1282w
Sentencing 385–6w
Victim support schemes 1074–6, 1263w

Domestic visits
Minister for the Olympics and for London 817w
Ministry of Defence 1133–4w

Domestic waste
Waste disposal 55w, 222w, 228w, 421–2w, 1123–4w, 1132w, 1367–8w

Donaldson, Mr Jeffrey M
Chamber Debates
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 224
Westminster Hall Debates
Revenue and Customs, Northern Ireland (12.03.2008) 80wh, 84wh
Questions
Devolution, Northern Ireland 282

***Donaldson, Mr Jeffrey M**—continued*
Massereene Barracks 812w

Donohoe, Mr Brian H
Questions
Aviation, Sustainable development 209–10w
Data protection, Dept for Work and Pensions 569w
Data protection, Treasury 717w

Donors
Blood 1308–9w
Organs 96–7w, 737–8, (19.03.2008) 1051–8

Dorries, Nadine
Questions
Arts 3

Dorset
Incapacity benefit 1062–3w
New deal for disabled people 827w

Dowd, Jim
Questions
Employment Tribunals Service, Internet 155w

Dredging
942w

Drew, Mr David
Chamber Debates
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 156
Westminster Hall Debates
Community policing (19.03.2008) 232wh
Questions
Alternatives to prison 877–8w
Biodiversity, Finance 420–1w
Bluetongue disease 414–5w
Bluetongue disease, Disease control 1119w
Bluetongue disease, Vaccination 414–5w, 1118w
Bus services, Concessions 953w
CJD 255–6w
Council tax, Second homes 694–5w
Cuba, Foreign relations 99w
Cycling, Safety 210w
Degrees, Fraud 1021w
Digital broadcasting, Sight impaired 1360–1w
Education maintenance allowance 1407w
Energy, Meters 615–6w
Excise duties, Motor vehicles 120–1w
Fire services, Finance 1368–71w
Horses, Exports 223w
Industrial disputes, Cabinet Office 864w
Internal drainage boards, South West 1296w
Local government, Reorganisation 583w
National offender management information system 153–4w
Police custody 379w
Post offices, Rural areas 1291–2w
Press, Advertising 985w
Prison accommodation 380w
Prison sentences 385w
Prisoners 380w
Prisoners, Per capita costs 380w
Probation 381w
Retail prices index 126w, 369–70w
Seeds, Registration 1128w
Sexual offences, Registration 1264w
Sudan, Armed conflict 106–7w, 498–9w, 1188w
Sudan, Censorship 862w
Sudan, Females 499–500w
Sudan, Food aid 823–4w
Sudan, Peace negotiations 863w
Sudan, Peacekeeping operations 500w
Tax avoidance 887w

Drew, Mr David—continued
Toys and games, Safety 989w
Uganda, Armed conflict 500–1w
Uganda, Peace negotiations 1188–9w

Drinking water
Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 486w
Dept for Transport 446w, 527w
Government departments 701–2w
House of Commons 1076–7, 1107–8w, 1307–8w
Solicitor-General 201w

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency
Data protection 443–4w
Databases 211–3w
Publications 684–6w

Driving
Disqualification 920
Sleep apnoea 946w

Driving offences
Buses 1377w

Driving tests
EC countries 8w
Motorcycles 8w

Driving under influence
506–8w
Durham 1084–6w

Drug seizures
339w

Drugs
Afghanistan 635–6w
Arthritis 1137–8w
Cancer 1138w
Crime 1191–2w, 1250w
Crime prevention 1245w
Gonorrhoea 1319–20w
Health education 342–3w
Lancashire 1191–2w
Macular degeneration 270w
Misuse 549w, 993–5w, 1139w
Morecambe 1139w
NHS 1006w
Pregnant women 255w, 548–9w, 671–2w
Prisons 15–6ws, 49–50ws, 133–5, 470w, 872w, 1099–104w, 1356w
Pulmonary arterial hypertension 1145–6w
Pupil exclusions 1155–6w
Rehabilitation 732–4, 1275–6w
Side effects 1147–8w
Smuggling 1085–6w

Duddridge, James
Questions
Domestic violence, Victim support schemes 1074–5
Hospitals, Cleaning services 270w
Immigration 802w
Mental health services 744w
Written questions 1081

Duncan, Alan
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (18.03.2008) 768–72, 849
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 946–57, 960, 965–8, 976, 1038
Questions
Eco-towns, Leicestershire 963w

Dundee
Revenue and Customs 126–7w

Dunne, Philip
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 306, (18.03.2008) 762, 831–4
Northern Rock, Nationalisation (10.03.2008) 47, 59, 70–5, 81

Dunne, Philip—continued
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 1016

Dunwoody, Mrs Gwyneth
Questions
Local government, Cheshire 401–2w

Durham
Acceptable behaviour contracts 1244–5w
Detection rates 1246w
Driving under influence 1084–6w
Job creation 123w
Licensing laws (19.03.2008) 286–94wh
Smoking 237w
Vandalism 1104–6w

Durkan, Mark
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 311, 315
Westminster Hall Debates
Revenue and Customs, Northern Ireland (12.03.2008) 73–6wh, 82–4wh, 88wh
Questions
Palestinians, Overseas aid 268

Dyspraxia
Unemployment 833w

Eagle, Angela, Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (17.03.2008) 680, 711–6
Written Statements
"Debt and Reserves Management Report 2008–09" 17ws
Questions
Advertising, Treasury 116w
Amusement arcades, Canvey Island 128w
Bank of Credit and Commerce International 127w
Bank services, Proof of identity 1216–7w, 1265w
Breast cancer 257w
Car allowances 532w
China Task Force 360w
Civil Service Appeal Board, Treasury 360–1w
Complaints, Treasury 362w
Cost effectiveness, Treasury 362w
Databases, Treasury 717–8w
Death, Alcoholic drinks 115w
Death, Benzodiazepines 715–6w
Death, Children 1213w
Discrimination, Treasury 1215w
Employment, Greater London 117–20w
Excise duties, Alcoholic drinks 120w
Excise duties, Beer 364w
Excise duties, Diesel fuel 884w
Excise duties, Fuels 120w, 1215w
Excise duties, Motor vehicles 120–1w
Foreign workers 365–8w
Foreign workers, Greater London 121–2w
Foreign workers, Lancashire 119–20w
Foreign workers, West Midlands 884–6w
Freedom of information, Treasury 116–7w
Hearing impaired, Treasury 1215w
Inflation 368w
Information and communications technology, Treasury 883w
Internet, Treasury 1265–6w
Job creation, Durham 123w
Job creation, Public sector 888–92w
Knowledge network project 124w
Landfill tax 45–6w, 128–9w, 536w, 1217w
Manpower, Treasury 362–4w
Marriage, Islam 124w
Mortgages 888w
National insurance contributions 43w
Nationality, Northern Ireland 719w
Northern Rock, Nationalisation 369w

Eagle, Angela,—continued
Official cars, Treasury 363w
Pensions, Treasury 718w
Planning permission, Treasury 719w
Population 125–6w
Population, Wirral 122–3w
Property, Treasury 363–4w
Prostate cancer, Lancashire 369w
Public expenditure, Treasury 117w
Recruitment, Treasury 533w
Registration of births deaths marriages and civil partnerships 719–20w
Research and development tax credit 1266w
Retail prices index 126w, 369–70w
Smuggling, Tobacco 127w
Stamp duty land tax 462w, 1218w
Suicide 1266–7w
Suicide, Essex 462–4w
Suicide, Tamworth 463–5w
Suicide, Teachers 129w
Tax allowances, Personal savings 128w
Taxation, Bingo 128w
Taxation, Gambling 720–1w
Teenage pregnancy 1010–1w
Temporary employment, Treasury 883w
Tolls 1219–20w
Tolls, Greater London 130w
VAT, Bingo 722w
Welfare tax credits 1268w
Written questions, Treasury 533w

Eagle, Maria, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice
Questions
Action for Employment, Ministry of Justice 867–8w
Alternatives to prison 877–8w
Antisocial behaviour 1081–2w
Bail 1082w
Civil Service Appeal Board, Ministry of Justice 376w
Consultants, Ministry of Justice 151–2w
Cost effectiveness, Ministry of Justice 1083w
Council tax, Non-payment 1082w
Courts, Disclosure of information 150w
Crime, Nature conservation 867–8w
Crimes of violence, Sentencing 373w
Debt collection 163w
Debt collection, Powers of entry 157–8w
Discrimination, Ministry of Justice 1190–1w
Driving under influence 506–8w
Driving under influence, Durham 1084–6w
Drugs, Crime 1191–2w
Drugs, Smuggling 1085–6w
Eurostar, Ministry of Justice 628–9w
Feltham Young Offender Institution and Remand Centre 377w
Harassment, Prosecutions 879w
Holloway Prison, Disciplinary proceedings 869w
Illegal broadcasting, Video recordings 1192w
Juries, Mentally ill 1191–2w
Juries, Wales 373w
Magistrates' courts, Buxton 1193w
Magistrates' courts, Young offenders 870w
National Offender Management Service, Manpower 157w, 1087–8w
Offenders, Rehabilitation 158–62w
Offensive weapons, Convictions 1329–38w
Pay, Ministry of Justice 627w
Plants, Ministry of Justice 627–8w
Poaching 507–8w
Prison sentences 1327–9w, 1356–7w

***Eagle, Maria**—continued*
Prison Service, Manpower 1095–9w
Prison Service, Pay 375w
Prison Service, Redundancy 1084w
Prison Service, Retirement 1337–48w
Prisoners 872w
Prisoners, Death 633w, 871–2w
Prisoners, Diabetes 1355w
Prisoners, Females 1094–6w
Prisoners, Self-mutilation 1355w
Prisoners, Suicide 510w
Prisoners' release 137–8
Prisons, Drugs 1099–104w
Prisons, Food 510w
Prisons, Islam 1095w
Prisons, Private sector 630–2w
Prisons, Travelling people 875–6w
Probation, Standards 876–7w
Probation officers 878w
Property, Ministry of Justice 506w
Rape, Convictions 634–5w
Rape, Sentencing 511–22w
Travel, Ministry of Justice 628–9w
Vandalism 881–2w
Vandalism, Durham 1104–6w
Wind power, Ministry of Justice 1105–6w
Written questions, Government responses 1264w
Written questions, Ministry of Justice 629w
Young offenders, Custodial treatment 386w

Ear nose and throat
Surgery 266w

Early retirement
Teachers 194w

Easington
Housing 230w

East coast railway line
213w
Electric cables 213w

East Midlands
Night flying 528–9w
Schools 900w
Theatre 313–4w

East Midlands Trains
(11.03.2008) 52–61wh

East of England
Air pollution 730–2w
Dental services 262w
Further education 178–80w
Internal drainage boards 223–5w
Road traffic 490–1w, 1293w
Transport 531w
Travelling people 65–6w

East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Finance 470w

East Riding
Income tax 462w

East Sussex
A264 683w
Ambulance services 254–5w

Eastbourne
Chronically sick 260w
Class sizes 175w
Classroom assistants 175w
General certificate of secondary education 179–80w
Palliative care 479w, 551–2w
Teachers 194w
Temporary accommodation 976–7w

Eastern Europe
NATO enlargement 655w

EC action
Information and communications technology (19.03.2008) 1049

EC common foreign and security policy
811w, 813–4w

EC countries
Driving tests 8w

EC defence policy
8ws, 293w, 648w, 656w, 664w, 1036–7w, 1167–8w, 1183w

EC enlargement
Serbia 1284w

EC external relations
Cuba 1182–3w
Zimbabwe 335w

EC grants and loans
Floods 229w

EC immigration
(18.03.2008) 896

EC internal trade
1224–5w

EC law
Dietary supplements 997–8w, 1310–1w
Energy 41–2w, 980–1w, 1129–30w
Heating 44w
Maps 972w
Parliamentary scrutiny 1080–1
Planning 1208w

EC nationals
Health services 91–2w

Economic and monetary union
Dept for Communities and Local Government 962–3w

Eco-towns
580w, 1197w, 1210w
Leicestershire 963w

Ecuador
Colombia 291w, 328–9w

Education
Afghanistan 1177w
Assessments 171w, 176–7w
Business 679w
Culture 6–7, 133w, 681w, 835–7w, 1359w
Developing countries 504–5w
Disadvantaged 593w, 899w
English language 304–10w
Finance 177w
Prisons 852w, 857w, 1093–4w
Religion 185–7w

Education maintenance allowance
301–2w, 1407w
Bassetlaw 601w
Fraud 303–4w

Educational institutions
First aid 1018w

Educational psychology
1072w

Efford, Clive
Chamber Debates
London Underground (10.03.2008) 97, 104–5
Questions
Business questions 418
Dental services, Greenwich 262–3w
Disabled, Broadcasting 1060–1w
Gift aid 122w
Offenders, Rehabilitation 145–6
Park and ride schemes, Olympic Games 2012 215w
Post offices, Closures 489w
Railways, Greenwich 216w
Special educational needs 192–3w

***Efford, Clive**—continued*
Sports, Public participation 145–6w
Sportsgrounds 147–8w
Sportsgrounds, Land use 64w
Surgery 758w
VAT 718w

Egypt
Muslim Brotherhood 492–3w

Elderly
Care homes *see* Care homes
Disadvantaged 866w
Health services (13.03.2008) 115–50wh
Housing 230w
Social services 83w, 738–40, 992–3w

Elections
Civil servants 74ws
Developing countries 269–71
Expenditure 144
Fraud 155w
Information and communications technology 1085–6w
Zimbabwe 335w, 501w

Electoral Commission
Ipsos MORI 729w

Electoral register
1063–5
Databases 1086–7w

Electric cables
486w
East coast railway line 213w
West coast railway line 213w

Electric shock equipment
Dogs 941w

Electronic equipment
979–82w

Electronic government
98w, 1302w

Electronic voting
1109w

Ellman, Mrs Louise
Chamber Debates
London Underground (10.03.2008) 85–7
Questions
Lorries, Accidents 1379w
Lorries, Safety 1386w
Palestinians, Overseas aid 268

Ellwood, Tobias
Chamber Debates
Brussels Summit (EC) (17.03.2008) 631
Budget March 2008 (13.03.2008) 444, 446–7, 498, 500–1
Local Authority Powers (Election Campaigns) Bill, 1R (19.03.2008) 943–4
Questions
Alcoholic drinks, Health education 182w
Alcoholic drinks, Misuse 546–7w
Armed forces, Weapons 295–6w
Aviation, USA 1375–6w
Casinos, Closures 1359w
Casinos, Regeneration 11
Casinos, Young people 1359w
Gaming machines 1047w
General practitioners, Conditions of employment 991w
Horse racing, Bookmakers 320w
Licensed premises, Closures 156w
Low alcohol drinks, Wines 939w
Primary education, Bournemouth 183–4w
Primary education, Per capita costs 309w
Schools, Standards 600–1
Schools, Transport 184w
Transport, Bournemouth 530–1w
Windpower, Ministry of Defence 663w, 1307w

Email
NHS 1146w

Embassies
Waste disposal 642w

Emergencies
Planning 977w

Emergency services
Accidents 686–90w

Emigration
Bermuda 492w

Employment
1061–2w
Carers 484–5w
Greater London 117–20w
Learning disability 204w
Low incomes 435–6w
Prisoners' release 509w
Prisons 379w
Young people 914–5

Employment Retention Bill 2007–08
Chamber Debates
2R order read (14.03.2008) 588

Employment schemes
Exservicemen 458–9w
Private sector 570w
Voluntary organisations 570w

Employment Tribunals Service
Internet 155w
Learning disability 1193w

Empty property
58w, 1197–8w
Dept for Communities and Local Government 963w
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 1152w
Dept for Transport 1377–8w
Dept of Health 996w
Ministry of Defence 810w
Non-domestic rates 696w, 778w, 1198w

Energy
Complaints 248w
EC law 41–2w, 980–1w, 1129–30w
Housing 964w
Meters 615–6w
Prices 247w

Energy performance certificates
57–8w, 964w

Enfield
Pre-school education 1074w
Youth services 595w

English language
Bangladesh 61–2ws
Education 304–10w
General certificate of secondary education 912–3w, 1407w
Home Office 792w

English Partnerships
Vacant land 399w

Ennis, Jeff
Questions
British Coal Corporation, Assets 978w
Chronically sick 990w
Culture, Olympic Games 2012 5
Palliative care, Barnsley 1007w, 1147w

Entry clearances
930w
Bangladesh 1187–8w
Children 792w
Contracts 102–3w
Offenders 792w
Overseas students 111w, 330w, 360w
Pakistan 1187–8w
Sports competitors 793–5w

Environment protection
Coal fired power stations 245–6w
Fixed penalties 42w
Seas and oceans 47w, 725–6w

Environmental health
Catering 265–6w

Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Amendment) Bill 2007–08
Chamber Debates
1R (11.03.2008) 147–50

Environmental Protection (Airports) Bill 2007–08
Chamber Debates
2R order read (14.03.2008) 568

Environmental stewardship scheme
420w

Enviros Consulting
Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 702w

Equal pay
Cumbria County Council 960–1w

Equalities Office
see Government Equalities Office

Equality
925w
Dept for Communities and Local Government 1365–6w
Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 1119–20w
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 842w
Dept for Transport 946w
Dept of Health 83–4w
Foreign and Commonwealth Office 100w
Home Office 785w
Ministry of Defence 13w
Ministry of Justice 1083–4w

Equality and Human Rights Commission
524w
Greater London Authority 523–4w

Equatorial Guinea
Diplomatic service 103w

Equity
Council housing 63w

Erasmus
1018w

Eritrea
Ethiopia 329w

Essex
Fire services 1198–9w
Higher education 598–9w
Hospitals 270w
Prostitution 352–6w
Suicide 462–4w, 671w

Estimates days
London Underground (10.03.2008) 85–117
Northern Rock (10.03.2008) 21–84

Etherington, Bill
Questions
Special educational needs, Hearing impaired 108–9w

Ethiopia
Eritrea 329w

Ethnic groups
Burma 636–7w
Non-profit making associations 460–1w
Voluntary organisations 234w

EU Agriculture and Fisheries Council
56ws

EU battlegroups
1038w, 1041w

EU Environment Council
21–2ws

EU General Affairs and External Relations Council
57–9ws

European Commission
Offices 329–30w

European Council
Ministerial statements (17.03.2008) 617–31

European Defence Agency
(18.03.2008) 895–6, (19.03.2008) 1059–62

European Regional Development Fund
North West 1374–5w

European Union
1185w

European Union (Amendment) Bill 2007–08
Chamber Debates
3R (11.03.2008) 152–254

Eurostar
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 141w
Dept for Transport 210w
Dept for Work and Pensions 1160–1w
Immigration 800w
Ministry of Defence 13w
Ministry of Justice 628–9w
Scotland Office 526w

Evans, Mr Nigel
Chamber Debates
Brussels Summit (EC) (17.03.2008) 630
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 314, 318, 328, 330, 369–71, (13.03.2008) 435, (17.03.2008) 705, 710
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 1038
Questions
Alcoholic drinks, Misuse 79–80w, 96w
Alcoholic drinks, Young people 80w, 1241–2w
Arts 4
Business questions 424
Child Support Agency, Compensation 425–6w
Child Support Agency, Manpower 1058w
Children, Maintenance 1057–8w
Data protection, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 841w
Driving under influence 506–8w
Liver diseases, Lancashire 93–4w
Malawi, Orphans 272–3
Plastic bags, Landfill 1298w
Poaching 507–8w
Post offices, Closures 920–1
Primary education, Admissions 921w
Prison accommodation 128
Prostate cancer, Health education 276–7w
Prostate cancer, Lancashire 277–8w, 369w
Rural areas, Bus services 441w
Rural areas, Primary education 912–3w
Schools, Admissions 616
Schools, Uniforms 371w
Secondary education, Admissions 921w
Vandalism 881–2w
VAT, Packaging 538w

Evennett, David
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 369
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 962, 1019–20
Questions
Arts, Bexley 136–7w
Big Lottery Fund, Bexley 1149–50w

Evennett, David *—continued*
Cancer, Screening 732
Child Support Agency, Complaints 427–8w
Dieticians, Greater London 468–70w
Domestic visits, Minister for the Olympics and for London 817w
Employment, Greater London 117–20w
Foreign workers, Greater London 121–2w
Gift aid, Bexley 1012w
Olympic Games 2012, Finance 17–8
Pension credit, Bexley 207w
Pensioners, Income 830–1w
Post offices 838–9w
Post offices, Closures 489w
Railways, Fares 1116w
Religious buildings, Bexley 544–5w
Renewable energy 623w
Roads, Accidents 217w
Vandalism, Buses 79w
Working mothers, Flexible working 1279–80w

Excise duties
Alcoholic drinks 120w
Beer 364w
Diesel fuel 884w
Fuels 120w, 1215w
Motor vehicles 120–1w, 690w, 771–2w, 775w

Exercise
1046w

Exhaust emissions
Aviation 405–6, 438–9w

Exploration
Oil 251w

Exports
Aggregates 942w
Horses 223w
Metals 679–80w

Exservicemen
Disabled 14w, 1168w
Employment schemes 458–9w
Teachers 195w

Extended schools
Morecambe 1067w

Extradition
Bullingdon Prison 352w
Cyprus (14.03.2008) 589–96
Liechtenstein 609w

Fabricant, Michael
Questions
Housing, West Midlands 66–7w, 232w
Voluntary organisations 908

Fairtrade initiative
Cabinet Office 589w
Home Office 74w
Ministry of Defence 656w
Prime Minister 539w

Faith schools
Admissions 1408w

Fallon, Mr Michael
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (13.03.2008) 460–3
Northern Rock, Nationalisation (10.03.2008) 29–32
Questions
Dartford-Thurrock Crossing 527w
Transport, Kent 531w

Family courts
146

Fares
Railways 773–4w, 1116w

Farron, Timothy
Chamber Debates
Animals Act 1971 (Amendment) Bill, 2R adjourned (14.03.2008) 528–9
Post offices (17.03.2008) 717
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 960
Westminster Hall Debates
Developing countries, Water (19.03.2008) 261–4wh
Questions
Agriculture, Subsidies 31w
Developing countries, HIV infection 821w
Housing, Low incomes 778w

FCO Services
Standards 57ws

Featherstone, Lynne
Questions
Age, Discrimination 523w, 1280w
Alcoholic drinks, Crime 1238–40w
Apprentices 169–70w
Blood, Contamination 256–7w
Business questions 1094
Domestic violence, Victim support schemes 1076
Equality 925w
Government shareholding 1225–6w
Local government, Pensions 779–80w
Schools, Fire prevention 1417w

Felixstowe
Railways 1115w

Feltham Young Offender Institution and Remand Centre
377w

Females
Bishops 1281w
Crimes of violence 1281w
Human trafficking 1072
Ordination 1066
Politics and government 1073–4
Prisoners 1094–6w
Sports 8–10, 1281w, 1364w
Sudan 499–500w

Ferries
River Lymington 410

Field, Rt Hon Frank
Questions
Armed forces, Compensation 11w
Child tax credit 532w
Children, Maintenance 1389–90w
Health centres 481w
Housing benefit 885–6w
Income support, Lone parents 826–7w
New deal schemes 20–4w
NHS, Fraud 1006w
Offenders, Deportation 349–50w
Offenders, Entry clearances 792w
Prisoners, Repatriation 630w
Prisoners' release, Employment 509w
Prisons, Education 857w
Welfare tax credits 131w, 1013w, 1267–8w
Welfare tax credits, Appeals 371–2w
Welfare tax credits, Overpayments 132w

Field, Mr Mark
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 348, 354, 361, 363, 373–7
Northern Rock, Nationalisation (10.03.2008) 24, 38, 44–8
Westminster Hall Debates
Arts (20.03.2008) 296wh, 303wh, 308wh, 311wh, 323–6wh

Field, Mr Mark *—continued*
Community policing (19.03.2008) 228–30wh, 242wh
Questions
Arts 4

Finance Bill 2007–08
Chamber Debates
Procedure motions*, Money res* and 1R (18.03.2008) 893–5
Written Statements
63ws

Financial reporting orders
155w

Fire prevention
55–6w
Schools 1417w

Fire services
696w
Consultants 697–8w
Essex 1198–9w
Finance 1368–71w
Floods 40ws, 1371–2w
Humberside (18.03.2008) 176–97wh

Firearms
Crime 935w, 1251–2w
Licensing 1259w, 1276w
Prices 1250–1w
Smuggling 893–4w

Fires
56w
Grasslands 698–700w

Fireworks
248w, 980w

First aid
Educational institutions 1018w

First Great Western
see Great Western Trains

Fisheries
Inspections 42w, 703–4w
Protection 222w
Quotas 42–3w
Subsidies 42w, 703w

Fitzpatrick, Jim, *Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Dept for Transport*
Westminster Hall Debates
East Midlands Trains (11.03.2008) 57–61wh
Questions
A264, East Sussex 683w
Air traffic control 209w
Aviation, Exhaust emissions 438–9w
Aviation, Security 683–4w
Aviation, Sustainable development 209–10w
Aviation, USA 1375–6w
Biofuels 238–9w
Biofuels, USA 684w
British Airports Authority, Landing charges 445–6w
Buses, Driving offences 1377w
Cabotage 441w
Cost effectiveness, Dept for Transport 7w
Cycling, Safety 210w
Data protection, Dept for Transport 7w, 684w, 768w
Databases, Dept for Transport 768–9w
Drinking water, Dept for Transport 446w, 527w
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Data protection 443–4w
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Databases 211–3w
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Publications 684–6w

Fitzpatrick, Jim,—continued
Driving, Sleep apnoea 946w
Driving tests, Motorcycles 8w
Emergency services, Accidents 686–90w
Empty property, Dept for Transport 1377–8w
Equality, Dept for Transport 946w
Eurostar, Dept for Transport 210w
Freedom of information, Dept for Transport 946w
Government Car and Despatch Agency, Contracts 9w
Hearing impaired, Dept for Transport 1379w
Heathrow Airport 213w, 445w, 689w, 949–50w, 1113w, 1379–85w
Heathrow Airport, A4 683w
Heathrow Airport, Noise 527–8w
Heathrow Airport, Profits 769–70w
Impact assessments, Dept for Transport 8w
Inland waterways 689–90w
Ipsos MORI, Dept for Transport 1385–6w
Itis Holdings, Dept for Transport 949–52w
Lorries, Accidents 1379w
Lorries, Safety 214w, 1386w
Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Manpower 528w
Motor vehicles, Excise duties 690w, 771–2w, 775w
Motor vehicles, Registration 1114w
Night flying, East Midlands 528–9w
Official cars 442w
Official cars, Dept for Transport 8w
Official hospitality, Dept for Transport 442–3w
Official visits, Dept for Transport 1378–9w
Parliament Square, Accidents 215w
Passenger ships 691w, 952–3w
Pay, Dept for Transport 210–1w
Pensions, Dept for Transport 1112–3w
Plants, Dept for Transport 211w
Ports, Waste disposal 691–2w
Public expenditure, Dept for Transport 443w
Railways, Biofuels 217w
Road traffic offences, Traffic lights 446w
Roads, Accidents 217w, 692w, 1116–7w, 1387–8w
Roads, Safety 956w
Shipping, Safety 1388w
Speed limits, Cameras 776w
SS Richard Montgomery 447w
Taking and driving away, Accidents 1116–7w
Television, Dept for Transport 448w
Translation services, Dept for Transport 443w
Transport, East of England 531w
Transport, Radioactive waste 1111–2w, 1386w
Travel, Dept for Transport 211w, 693w, 1113w
Wind power, Dept for Transport 10w

Fixed penalties
Antisocial behaviour 880w
Environment protection 42w

Flags
Home Office 343w

Flexible working
Working mothers 1279–80w

***Flint, Rt Hon Caroline,** Minister of State, Dept for Communities and Local Government*

Flint, Rt Hon Caroline,—continued
Written Statements
Building regulations 55–6ws
Questions
Eco-towns 580w, 1197w, 1210w
Eco-towns, Leicestershire 963w
Energy performance certificates 57–8w, 964w
Further education, Thames Gateway 585w
Home information packs 579–80w, 1199w
Homes and Communities Agency 1200w
Housing, Low incomes 580–1w
Housing, Morecambe 1201w
Housing, Thames Gateway 1202w
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation, Business interests 1211w
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation, Pay 1211–2w
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation, Public appointments 586w, 1205–6w
Regional planning and development, Thames Gateway 585w

Flood control
398–401
Finance 282, 704–5w

Floods
EC grants and loans 229w
Fire services 40ws, 1371–2w
Housing 1372w
Maps 43w
Namibia 823w
Property development 57w, 229w
Repairs and maintenance 1014w
River Severn 1299w

Fly tipping
1124w
Wales 925w

Flynn, Paul
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (18.03.2008) 834–8
Questions
Radioactive materials, Research 978w
United Kingdom NIREX, Finance 983w

Foetal alcohol syndrome
1311w

Folk culture
16

***Follett, Barbara,** Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for the East of England, Government Equalities Office*
Questions
Age, Discrimination 523w, 1280w
Cost effectiveness, Government Equalities Office 1280w
Domestic violence, Immigrants 1279–80w
Domestic violence, Victim support schemes 1074–6
Equality and Human Rights Commission 524w
Equality and Human Rights Commission, Greater London Authority 523–4w
Females, Crimes of violence 1281w
Females, Human trafficking 1072
Females, Sports 1281w
Official hospitality, Government Equalities Office 4–5w
Older workers, Government Equalities Office 523w
Prostitution, Human trafficking 1279w
Public appointments, Government Equalities Office 4w

Follett, Barbara,—continued
Television, Government Equalities Office 524w
UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 1280w
Working mothers, Flexible working 1279–80w

Food
Armed forces 1039w
Developing countries 283–4w
Hospitals 93w
Labelling 267w
Prisons 510w
Safety 265–7w

Food aid
Sudan 823–4w

Food supply
562w

Foot and mouth disease
Addresses to the Crown (11.03.2008) 127
Disease control 9–11ws, 406–7, 943w
Pirbright 282–3

Football
Offensive weapons 934–5w

Forced marriage
103w, 283–4, 343w
Children 1069–71w, 1251w

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Aviation 1283w
Civil Service Appeal Board 1025–6w
Cost effectiveness 100w
Data protection 1183w
Databases 640w
Equality 100w
Homeworking 326w
Information and communications technology 100–1w
Internet 1026–7w
Ipsos MORI 1186w
Official cars 640w
Official hospitality 326–7w
Older workers 101w
Pay 492w
Plants 101w
Property 640w
Public expenditure 640–1w
Sick pay 641w
Temporary employment 327–8w
Translation services 102w
Travel 1183–4w
Visits 332–3w
Written questions 327–8w

Foreign companies
Internet 980w

Foreign exchange
Africa 280–2w

Foreign investment in UK
Israel 487w
Japan 27w

Foreign relations
Cuba 99w
Iraq 1028–9w
Japan 104–5w
South America 497–8w, 1026w, 1030w
Wales 203w

Foreign workers
365–8w
Domestic service 797–8w
Greater London 121–2w
Lancashire 119–20w
National insurance 574–7w
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority 251w
Restaurants 343–4w
West Midlands 884–6w

Foreigners
Armed forces 1164w
Parking offences 690–1w
Welfare tax credits 372w
Working tax credit 898–9w

Forestry Commission
Commercial activities (19.03.2008) 279–85wh

Foster, Mr Don
Westminster Hall Debates
Arts (20.03.2008) 297–9wh, 301–2wh, 306–7wh, 317wh, 320wh, 326–32wh, 338wh
Questions
Alcoholic drinks, Health education 1359w
Alcoholic drinks, Misuse 466w
Alcoholic drinks, Young people 1241w, 1243–4w
Arts, Community development 1357–8w
BBC, Sponsorship 1358–9w
Culture, Education 1359w
Culture, Sponsorship 543w
Culture Online 542w
Digital switchover help scheme 140–1w
Exercise 1046w
Gambling, Licensing 141–2w
Illegal broadcasting, Video recordings 1192w
Licensing laws 14
Licensing laws, Prosecutions 1260–1w
Listed buildings 1050w
Museums and galleries 1051w
Museums and galleries, Closures 1362w
Music, Finance 1362w
Nations and Regions Group 390w
Obesity 1051w
Olympic Games 2012, Finance 18–9
Olympic Games 2012, Overseas visitors 70w
Olympic Games 2012, Standards 817–8w
Performing arts, Young people 1362–4w
Playing fields 1052–3w
Playing fields, Planning permission 1053–4w
Public appointments, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 318–20w
Public expenditure, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 1360w
Publications, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 394w
Sports, Children 1153w
Sports, Per capita costs 1153–4w
Sports, Racial discrimination 1150–1w
Sports, Schools 1075–6w
Teachers, Manpower 1425–8w
Television, Advertising 149–50w

Foster, Mr Michael Jabez, (Hastings and Rye)
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 953, 975, 980, 1000–3
Questions
Official engagements, Prime Minister 273–4
Post offices, Expenditure 621w
Poverty, Children 274

Foundation degrees
598w

Foundation schools
178w

Fox, Dr Liam
Questions
Afghanistan, Peacekeeping operations 450w, 648w, 714w, 808w, 1043w
Air force, Deployment 708w
Armed forces, Cadets 1163w

Fox, Dr Liam—continued
Armed forces, Food 1039w
Armed forces, Housing 1034–6w
Armed forces, Pensions 458w
Armed forces, Recruitment 1164–5w
Armed forces, Uniforms 290w
Armed forces, Vehicles 1165w
Armoured fighting vehicles 710w
Army, Deployment 649w
Assets, Ministry of Defence 1039–40w
Balkans, Peacekeeping operations 295w
Central Africa, Peacekeeping operations 291w
Challenger tanks 1039w
Challenger tanks, Repairs and maintenance 649w
Committee of Permanent Representatives 650–4w
Courts martial 455–7w
Domestic visits, Ministry of Defence 1133–4w
EC defence policy 293w, 648w, 656w, 664w
EU battlegroups 1038w, 1041w
Iraq, Peacekeeping operations 657–8w, 661–2w, 811–2w, 1306–7w
Joint rapid reaction force 453w, 460w
Military aircraft 1172w
Military aircraft, Helicopters 1172–4w
Military exercises 1038w, 1041w
Navy, Deployment 459w
Nimrod aircraft 714w
OCCAR, Finance 294w
Official engagements, Ministry of Defence 15–6w
Official engagements, Scotland Office 2–3w
Reserve forces, Labour turnover 663–4w
Royal Regiment of Scotland, Labour turnover 1043–4w
Security, Ministry of Defence 292–3w
Territorial Army, Manpower 295w
Theft, Ministry of Defence 809w
Warships 665–6w, 1174–6w

Foxley, Gordon
1041–2w

Franchises
Railways 10w, 74–6ws

Francis, Dr Hywel
Questions
Cyprus, Politics and government 639w, 1183w
Devolution, Wales 6w
Foreign relations, Wales 203w
Higher education, Developing countries 111–2w
Iran, Politics and government 642w
Iran, Trade unions 642–3w
Iron and steel, Wales 6w
Learning disability, Employment 204w
Middle East, Armed conflict 644–5w
Unemployment, Wales 204–5w

Francois, Mr Mark
Chamber Debates
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 242–6, 249
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 963–4, 978
Questions
Welfare to work, Finance 1066w

Fraser, Christopher
Westminster Hall Debates
Roads, Norfolk (12.03.2008) 106wh, 110–1wh
Questions
Cancer, Health services 257–8w
Cancer, Urinary system 280w
Motor vehicles, Registration 1114w

Fraser, Christopher—continued
Prostate cancer 274–9w
Prostate cancer, Health education 97w, 482w

Fraud
Certification quality marks 485w
Child benefit 1212w
Degrees 1021w
Education maintenance allowance 303–4w
Elections 155w
NHS 1006w
Revenue and Customs 885w
Small businesses 1071–2
Social security benefits 436–7w, 577w, 1402w
USA 1033w
VAT 131w, 1222w
Welfare tax credits 372w, 1015w

Free votes
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill (HL) 2007–08 277–8, 917

Freedom of information
Cabinet papers 323w
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 842w
Dept for Transport 946w
Treasury 116–7w

Freight
Hope Valley railway line 770w
Railways 1387w

Fuel oil
982w

Fuel poverty
Greater London 249w
Hampshire 570w

Fuels
Excise duties 120w, 1215w

Further education
East of England 178–80w
Islam 112w
Thames Gateway 585w

Future surface combatant
656w

Gale, Mr Roger
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 951
Questions
Business questions 421
Coroners, Armed forces 373–4w
Malaysia, Military decorations 859w
Translation services, Home Office 790–1w
Tribunals, Ministry of Justice 521–2w

Gambling
1359w
Licensing 141–2w, 1047w
Taxation 720–1w

Game
Birds 1294w

Gaming machines
1047w

Gapes, Mike
Chamber Debates
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 158
Questions
Business questions 419
Television channels, Irish 149w

Gardiner, Mr Barry
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 338–45
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 983

Gardiner, Mr Barry*—*continued
Questions
Building schools for the future programme 188w
Local government finance, Brent 279

Garnier, Mr Edward
Chamber Debates
Brussels Summit (EC) (17.03.2008) 628
Questions
Business questions 1095
Co-operative Movement, Agriculture 1127w
Police custody 157w

Gas supply
see Natural gas

Gating orders
1251–8w

Gatwick Airport
Official visits 493–4w

Gauke, David
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (13.03.2008) 494–9
Westminster Hall Debates
Revenue and Customs, Northern Ireland (12.03.2008) 79–81wh
Questions
Income tax, Overpayments 719w
VAT, Rebates 370w

Gaza
Overseas aid 503w

GCE A-level
612, 909w, 917–8
Mathematics 183w

GCE AS-level
899w
Private education 186w

General certificate of secondary education
179w, 909–10w, 1073–4w, 1408–10w, 1421–2w
Apprentices 170w
Coventry 1409–10w
Eastbourne 179–80w
English language 912–3w, 1407w
Mathematics 1407w
Pupil referral units 1413w

General practitioners
267–8w, 739–40w, 998w
Conditions of employment 268w, 991w
Lancashire 756–7w
Rural areas 268w, 747–8
Staffordshire 740–1w
Working hours 740–1, 740–1w, 741, 741w, 742, 991w, 998w

Genetically modified organisms
Labelling 268w

Genetics
Armed forces 451–2w
Birds of prey 33–4w
Databases 387w, 1068–70, 1282w
Insurance 84w

Genito-urinary medicine
Finance 1320–2w
Waiting lists 1311w

Geographical information systems
NHS 755w

George, Andrew
Questions
Developing countries, Tuberculosis 626w
NHS, Procurement 743
NHS, Reorganisation 271w

Germany
Antisemitism 1185w

Gibb, Mr Nick
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 1013–6
Questions
Educational psychology 1072w
Home education 1410w
Literacy, Primary education 1410–1w
Reading, Teaching methods 1411–2w
Schools, Admissions 916–7w
Schools, Standards 602

Gibson, Dr Ian
Westminster Hall Debates
Arts (20.03.2008) 310–5wh, 319wh, 332wh, 338wh
Questions
Chronically sick, Norfolk 260w
Cuba, EC external relations 1182–3w
Drugs, Prisons 470w
Palliative care, Norwich 479–80w
Smoking, Health services 279w, 482–4w
Voluntary organisations, Contracts 324–5w

Gidley, Sandra
Questions
Alcoholic drinks, Misuse 994w
Angling 939w
Developing countries, HIV infection 501–2w
Genetics, Databases 1068–9
Gonorrhoea, Drugs 1319–20w
House of Commons, Drinking water 1077
Plastic surgery 1319w
Prescription drugs, Consumer information 1318w
White fish 706w

Gift aid
122w, 532w, 923–4
Bexley 1012w

Gifted children
910w
National curriculum tests 180–1w
Pupil exclusions 181w
Wirral 181w

Gillan, Mrs Cheryl
Questions
National Assembly for Wales, Legislative competence 461w

Gilroy, Linda
Chamber Debates
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 210
Westminster Hall Debates
Water charges (18.03.2008) 155wh, 161–4wh, 166–8wh, 172wh, 174wh
Questions
Dental services 742
Digital broadcasting 1–2
Prisons, Drugs 134
Students, Loans 1022w

Glasgow
Identity and Passport Service 411–3w

Global Fund to Fight AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria
1179w

Global school partnerships
284w

Glossop
Housing benefit 1395w

Gloucestershire
Hazardous substances 49w

Gloucestershire*—*continued
Sexual offences 1264w

Goggins, Paul, Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office
Questions
Alcoholic drinks, Belfast 1277–8w
Crime, Northern Ireland 539w
Parades, Belfast 733w
Prisons, Health services 1278w
Sexual offences, Northern Ireland 199–200w, 389–90w

Goldsmith Review
see Citizenship Review

Goldsworthy, Julia
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 976
Westminster Hall Debates
Water charges (18.03.2008) 152wh, 162–8wh
Questions
Council tax 1364–5w
English language, Education 304–10w
Government Office for London, Information and communications technology 1199w
Greater London, Dept for Communities and Local Government 964w
Local government finance 233–4w
Local government services 64w
Manpower, Dept for Communities and Local Government 962w
Telephone services 989w
Telephone services, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 979w

Gonorrhoea
Drugs 1319–20w

Goodman, Helen, Deputy Leader of the House of Commons
Questions
Discrimination, Leader of the House of Commons 1279w
Ipsos MORI, Leader of the House of Commons 925w
Legislation, Public participation 763–4w
Ministerial statements 1079
Parliamentary scrutiny, EC law 1080–1
Pensions, Leader of the House of Commons 523w
Select committees, Regional government 387w
Topical debates 1082
Topical questions 1081–2
Written questions 1077–8, 1081, 1278w

Goodman, Mr Paul
Questions
Community relations 227w
Further education, Islam 112w
Housing, Immigrants 59–61w
Members, Correspondence 1374w
Students, Politics and government 112w
Translation services, Dept for Children Schools and Families 907–8w
Translation services, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 140w
Translation services, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 850–1w
Translation services, Dept for Transport 443w
Translation services, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 102w

Goodwill, Robert
Chamber Debates
Brussels Summit (EC) (17.03.2008) 631

Goodwill, Robert*—*continued
Westminster Hall Debates
Transport, Yorkshire and the Humber (11.03.2008) 40–3wh
Questions
Armed forces, Beef 281
Courts, Disclosure of information 139, 150w
Crime prevention 880–1w
Driving, Disqualification 920
Driving tests, Motorcycles 8w

Gove, Michael
Questions
Academies 901–2w
Academies, Finance 167–9w
Building schools for the future programme 172–4w, 902–6w
Council for Learning Outside the Classroom 907w
Education, Assessments 176–7w
Foundation schools 178w
GCE A-level 909w
General certificate of secondary education 909–10w, 1408–9w
General certificate of secondary education, English language 912–3w, 1407w
General certificate of secondary education, Pupil referral units 1413w
Gifted children 910w
Gifted children, National curriculum tests 180–1w
Gifted children, Pupil exclusions 181w
Leave, Dept for Children Schools and Families 405w
Primary education, Standards 184w, 1412–3w
Pupil exclusions 594w
Schools, Admissions 613–4
Schools, Capital investment 188w
Schools, Closures 1415–6w
Schools, Expenditure 917–8w
Schools, Innovation 189w
Secondary education, Admissions 192w
Special educational needs, Hearing impaired 594w
Teachers, Conduct 195w
Teachers, Disciplinary proceedings 194w
Teachers, Graduates 193w
Teachers, Qualifications 195–6w
Teachers, Resignations 1427–8w
Teachers, Retirement 1428–30w
Trust schools 196–7w

Government Car and Despatch Agency
Contracts 9w

Government departments
Data protection 914, 1300–2w
Drinking water 701–2w

Government Equalities Office
Cost effectiveness 1280w
Official hospitality 4–5w
Older workers 523w
Public appointments 4w
Television 524w

Government Office for London
Information and communications technology 1199w
Powers 57w

Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000 (Audit of Public Bodies) Order 2008
Chamber Debates
(19.03.2008) 1048

Government responses
Written questions 76w, 349w, 409w, 418–9w, 610w, 681w, 690w, 783–4w, 801w, 814w, 1044w, 1159w, 1181w, 1264w

Government shareholding
1225–6w

Graduates
Personal records 598w
Teachers 193w

Grants
Dept for Transport 1388w
National Lottery 143–4w, 1047w
Students 600–1w

Grants to the Churches Conservation Trust Order 2008
Chamber Debates
(18.03.2008) 895

Grasslands
Fires 698–700w

Gray, Mr James
Chamber Debates
Chippenham Hospital (18.03.2008) 897–900
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 1037
Westminster Hall Debates
Bovine tuberculosis (18.03.2008) 199wh, 203–4wh
Questions
Chippenham Hospital 745
Coastal areas, Access 396–7
Leisure, Facilities 968–9w
Leisure, VAT 465w
Schools, Closures 598

Grayling, Chris
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (13.03.2008) 442, 445, 447
Questions
Children, Maintenance 422–3w, 431–2w, 566–7w
Compensation, Dept for Work and Pensions 1390–1w
Complaints, Dept for Work and Pensions 828–30w
In work credit 570w
Incapacity benefit 826w
Jobcentre Plus, Citizens Advice 577w
Jobseeker's allowance 571–3w, 577–8w
Occupational pensions 1399w
Social security benefits 437w, 577w
Social security benefits, Fraud 436w
State retirement pensions 208w

Great Western Trains
947–8w
Passengers 769w
Rolling stock 9w
Standards 8–9w, 444w, 946–9w

Greater London
Alcoholic drinks 1238–40w
Arrests 782–3w
Aviation 439w
Bankruptcy 837–8w
Blood 1308–9w
Bus services 279
Community support officers 280
Crimes of violence 339–42w
Dept for Communities and Local Government 964w
Dieticians 468–70w
Employment 117–20w
Foreign workers 121–2w
Fuel poverty 249w
Health services 742w
Housing 918
Markets 818–9w
Night flying 528–9w
Pensioners 830–1w
Planning obligations 974w
Post offices 489w
Railways 774w, 1116w

Greater London*—*continued
Schools 177w
Secondary education 919w, 1079w
Tolls 130w
Winter fuel payments 1066–7w

Greater London Authority
Equality and Human Rights Commission 523–4w
Standards 583w

Greater Manchester
Casinos 579w

Green, Mr Damian
Questions
British nationality 784w
British Waterways Board, Finance 34–5w
Business questions 1090–1
Children's centres, Ashford Kent 1071w
Crimes of violence, Ashford Kent 1249w
Deportation 409w
Detention centres 75w, 348w
English language, Home Office 792w
Forced marriage 103w
Forced marriage, Children 1069–71w, 1251w
Genito-urinary medicine, Finance 1320–2w
Housing, Sustainable development 582w
Immigration, Balkans 796–7w
Immigration, Romania 339w
Immigration officers 796w
Immigration officers, Crimes of violence 798–9w
Immigration officers, Manpower 798w
Overseas students 1024–5w
Overseas students, Entry clearances 360w
Police, Airports 609–10w
Police, Borders 783w
Telephone tapping, Costs 359w

Greenhouse gas emissions
392–6, 553–4w

Greening, Justine
Chamber Debates
Animals Act 1971 (Amendment) Bill, 2R adjourned (14.03.2008) 521, 561–2, 568, 586–7
Budget March 2008 (17.03.2008) 705–12, 715
London Underground (10.03.2008) 89, 92, 96, 101, 105–7
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 984, 990, 999
Questions
Blood, Donors 1308–9w
Business questions 418–9
Excise duties, Diesel fuel 884w
Post offices 1291w
Stamp duty land tax 462w

Greenwich
Dental services 262–3w
Railways 216w

Grieve, Mr Dominic
Questions
Genetics, Databases 1069–70
Prison accommodation 132–3

Griffith, Nia
Questions
Offenders, Rehabilitation 140–1

Griffiths, Nigel
Chamber Debates
Brussels Summit (EC) (17.03.2008) 625
National security (19.03.2008) 940

***Griffiths, Nigel**—continued*
Questions
Developing countries, HIV infection 1179–80w

Grogan, Mr John
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (18.03.2008) 772–6
Questions
Council tax benefits 1393w
Death, Benzodiazepines 715–6w
In vitro fertilisation 1314w

Ground water
Pollution 731–2w

Gummer, Rt Hon John
Questions
Bank services, Liechtenstein 537–8w
Coroners, Armed forces 73w, 151w
Counter-Terrorism Bill 2007–08 73–4w
Extradition, Liechtenstein 609w
Post offices, Closures 489–90w

Gun sports
Olympic Games 2012 19–20

Gurkhas
Immigration 916, 930–2w, 1258–9w

Gwynne, Andrew
Questions
Cemeteries 1189–90w

Hague, Rt Hon William
Chamber Debates
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 163–75
Questions
Diego Garcia 102w
Eritrea, Ethiopia 329w
International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia 494w, 1032w
Iran, Banks 330–1w
Iran, Capital punishment 1025w
Iran, Nuclear power 1027–8w
Iran, Sanctions 1028w
Iraq, Foreign relations 1028–9w
Iraq, International assistance 1w
Iraq, Peacekeeping operations 14w
Kenya, Politics and government 332w
Rendition 1030w
Rendition, Diego Garcia 1027w, 1284w
Serbia, EC enlargement 1284w
Serbia, Human rights 497w
South America, Foreign relations 1026w
Sudan, Peacekeeping operations 1031–2w

Hamas
Iran 1186w

Hamilton, Mr Fabian
Questions
Prisons, Drugs 134–5

Hammond, Mr Philip
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (18.03.2008) 766–7, 811, 830, 841–7
Questions
Accountancy, Treasury 717w
Child benefit 716w
Christmas, Dept for Children Schools and Families 403w
Cost effectiveness, Dept for Children Schools and Families 404w
Eurostar, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 141w
Eurostar, Dept for Transport 210w
Eurostar, Dept for Work and Pensions 1160–1w
Eurostar, Ministry of Defence 13w
Eurostar, Ministry of Justice 628–9w
Eurostar, Scotland Office 526w

***Hammond, Mr Philip**—continued*
Labour turnover, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 843–4w
Labour turnover, Home Office 786w
Marketing, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 1017–8w
Marketing, Home Office 789–90w
Official hospitality, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 679w
Official hospitality, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 1151w
Official hospitality, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 37–8w
Official hospitality, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 844w
Official hospitality, Dept for Transport 442–3w
Official hospitality, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 326–7w
Official hospitality, Ministry of Justice 152–3w
Pay, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 1151–2w
Pay, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 1018w
Pay, Dept for Transport 210–1w
Pay, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 492w
Pay, Ministry of Justice 627w
Revenue and Customs, Fraud 885w
Revenue and Customs, Training 535w
Travel, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 139–40w
Travel, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 39–40w
Travel, Dept for Work and Pensions 1160w
Travel, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 1183–4w
Travel, Ministry of Defence 14w
Travel, Ministry of Justice 628–9w
Travel, Scotland Office 526w
Welfare tax credits 722w
Welfare tax credits, Appeals 371–2w
Welfare tax credits, Manpower 127w, 894w

Hammond, Stephen
Chamber Debates
London Underground (10.03.2008) 90, 92, 95, 105, 109–13
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 989

Hampshire
Fuel poverty 570w
Winter fuel payments 208–9w, 834w

Hancock, Mr Mike
Questions
Animal experiments 601–2w
Bus services, Concessions 765–6w, 1376w
Charities 863w
Consultants, Ministry of Justice 151–2w
Defence, Honours 809w
Defence equipment 1166w
Defence Equipment and Support 1304–5w
Domestic violence, Immigrants 73–5w
EC common foreign and security policy 811w, 813–4w
EC defence policy 1167–8w, 1183w
European Union 1185w
Excise duties, Beer 364w
Fly tipping, Wales 925w
Food, Safety 265–7w
Fuel poverty, Hampshire 570w
Great Western Trains, Standards 444w
Ground water, Pollution 731–2w
Hazardous substances, Brofiscin quarry 43w, 814–5w, 1294–5w, 1297–8w

***Hancock, Mr Mike**—continued*
Hazardous substances, Waste disposal 43–4w
HMS Southampton 1042w
Indonesia, Official visits 860w
Indonesia, Politics and government 860–1w
Iraq, Peacekeeping operations 657w
Macular degeneration, Smoking 550w
Nuclear weapons, Transport 663w
Postal services 1236–7w
QinetiQ, Property transfer 295w
Romania 450w
Taxation, Bingo 128w
Trapping 49w, 1130w
Treaty of Lisbon 714–5w, 811w, 813–4w
Trident missiles 665w
Type 23 frigates 666w
Winter fuel payments, Hampshire 208–9w, 834w
Written questions, Government responses 681w, 690w

Hands, Greg
Chamber Debates
London Underground (10.03.2008) 95–8, 114
Northern Rock, Nationalisation (10.03.2008) 34, 39–40, 65–70, 81
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 1036
Questions
Constituencies 146
Developing countries, Elections 269
Driving, Sleep apnoea 946w
Prisons 139–40 (6mc)
Secondary education, Admissions 610

***Hanson, Rt Hon David**, Minister of State, Ministry of Justice*
Written Statements
Community orders 14–5ws
Prisons, Buprenorphine 26–8ws
Prisons, Drugs 15–6ws, 49–50ws
Restraint in Juvenile Secure Settings Review 69–71ws
Questions
Antisocial behaviour, Fixed penalties 880w
Bail accommodation and support service 129–31, 376–8w
Bail accommodation and support service, Basildon 144
Bail accommodation and support service, Bodmin 1189w
Community orders 375w
Crime prevention 880–1w
Departmental reorganisation, Ministry of Justice 154w
Domestic violence, Sentencing 385–6w
Equality, Ministry of Justice 1083–4w
Intermittent custody 1357w
National offender management information system 153–4w
National Offender Management Service, Manpower 156–7w
National Probation Service for England and Wales, Manpower 381–4w
Offenders, Rehabilitation 140–1, 145–6, 313w
Offenders, Social security benefits 870w
Official visits, Ministry of Justice 672w
Open prisons 374w
Open prisons, Prisoner escapes 672–6w
Prison accommodation 374w, 510–1w
Prison accommodation, Shipping 128–9
Prison sentences 378w, 385w
Prisoners 1089–94w
Prisoners, Per capita costs 380w
Prisoners on remand 1347–51w
Prisoners' release 1351–5w
Prisons, Construction 375–6w

Hanson, Rt Hon David,—*continued*
Prisons, Discipline 379–80w
Prisons, Drugs 133–5, 872w, 1356w
Probation 381w
Probation, Domestic violence 380–1w
Probation, Finance 1103w
Probation officers 878–9w
Reoffenders 383–4w
Reoffenders, Dangerous driving 869w
Secure training centres, Restraint techniques 635w
Young offenders, Custodial treatment 869w

Harassment
Armed forces 782w
Peterborough 782w
Prosecutions 879w

Harman, Rt Hon Harriet, *Leader of the House of Commons, Lord Privy Seal, Secretary of State for Equality and Minister for Women*
Written Statements
Mechanism for Determining the Pay and Pensions for Members of Parliament Review 62ws
Parliamentary scrutiny, Legislation 74ws
Questions
Business statements 411–27, 1083–97
Females, Politics and government 1073–4
Legislation, Public participation 1278w

Harper, Mark
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (18.03.2008) 851–2
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 160, 176, 188, 194, 208
Westminster Hall Debates
Disabled, Poverty (11.03.2008) 17–20wh
Questions
Children, Poverty 605, 912–3
Community orders 137
Developing countries, Trade 502w
Digital broadcasting 2–3
Olympic Games 2012 20
Political impartiality, Dept for Work and Pensions 832w
Prison accommodation 374w
Public appointments, Government Equalities Office 4w
Public participation, Dept for Work and Pensions 1060w
Sick leave, Dept for Work and Pensions 1159–60w

Harris, Dr Evan
Westminster Hall Debates
Health services, Elderly (13.03.2008) 118wh, 126–31wh
Questions
House of Lords, Reform 372w
Illegal immigrants, Palliative care 338w

Harris, Mr Tom, *Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Dept of Transport*
Westminster Hall Debates
Roads, Norfolk (12.03.2008) 111–4wh
Questions
A2, M2 1111w
A5, M1 1113–4w
A30, Bodmin 944w
Birmingham New Street Station 765w, 944w
Crossrail line, Consultants 1112w
East coast railway line 213w
Great Western Trains 947–8w
Great Western Trains, Passengers 769w
Great Western Trains, Rolling stock 9w
Great Western Trains, Standards 8–9w, 444w, 946–9w

Harris, Mr Tom,—*continued*
Hope Valley railway line, Freight 770w
London Midland, Correspondence 1375w
M6 Toll, M54 771w
M20, Road traffic control 772w, 1115w
M25 771w
Motorways, Road traffic control 214–5w
Network Rail, Managers 1114–5w
Park and ride schemes, Olympic Games 2012 215w
Railway stations 772w, 1386–7w
Railway stations, Disabled 772–3w, 1115w
Railways 216w, 773w
Railways, Construction 770–1w
Railways, Crime 773w
Railways, Fares 773–4w, 1116w
Railways, Felixstowe 1115w
Railways, Franchises 10w
Railways, Freight 1387w
Railways, Greenwich 216w
Railways, Overcrowding 774w
Railways, Repairs and maintenance 9w
Railways, South East 529w, 774w, 1116w
Railways, Standards 954–5w
Railways, Sussex 776w
Roads, Repairs and maintenance 216–7w
Rolling stock 692–3w, 775w
SeaFrance, Industrial disputes 776w
Southern, Rolling stock 9–10w, 529–30w
Trams, Leeds 776w
Watford-Brighton railway line 1388w
West coast railway line 1389w
West coast railway line, Electric cables 213w
Written questions, Government responses 690w

Harrogate Theatre
(10.03.2008) 119–26

Harrow
Social security benefits 577w

Harvey, Nick
Questions
Armed forces, Housing 286–9w, 1037w
Armed forces, Weapons 1165–6w
Cluster munitions 290–1w
Cromwell Green Entrance 3–4w
Data protection, Ministry of Defence 292w
Eastern Europe, NATO enlargement 655w
House of Commons, Discrimination 1107w
House of Commons, Drinking water 1076–7, 1107–8w, 1307–8w
House of Commons, Plastic bags 199w
House of Commons, Police 1107w
House of Commons, Television 3w
House of Commons, Video recordings 1079–80
Iraq, Peacekeeping operations 713–4w, 1170–1w, 1307w
Military exercises 1038w
Nuclear weapons, Materials 813w
Parliament, Information and communications technology 735w
Parliament, Injuries 733–5w
Parliament, Parking 1108–9w
Parliament, Security 397–8w, 733–6w
Parliament, Visits 396–8w
Parliamentary Press Gallery 3w
Written questions, Government responses 1044w

Hay fever
1139w

Hay fever—*continued*
Pupils 913–4w, 1075w

Hayes, Mr John
Chamber Debates
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 177
Treaty of Lisbon, Points of order (13.03.2008) 428
Questions
Absenteeism, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 109w
Business questions 1091
Educational institutions, First aid 1018w
Higher education, Admissions 1019w
Industrial health and safety, Training 852w
Official secrets, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 111w
Pay, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 844–6w
Postal services, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 853w
Private finance initiative, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 846w
Public expenditure, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 847w
Railways, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 853w
Rape, Convictions 634–5w
Students, Finance 1020–1w
Students, Loans 113w
Tolls, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 857w
Train to gain programme 1024w
Translation services, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 114w
Vocational guidance 114w
Vocational training, Standards 1024w
Work experience 197w
Young people, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 857w

Hazardous substances
Brofiscin quarry 43w, 814–5w, 1294–5w, 1297–8w
Gloucestershire 49w
Security 680w
Waste disposal 43–4w

Headaches
1139–40w

Headteachers
Qualifications 182w

Heald, Mr Oliver
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (13.03.2008) 432, 444, 446, 455, 481, 486–91, 499, 503
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 1038
Questions
Disadvantaged, Rural areas 906

Healey, John, *Minister of State, Dept of Communities and Local Government*
Written Statements
Fire services, Floods 40ws
Questions
Bellwin scheme 694w
Casinos, Greater Manchester 579w
Cemeteries 1194w
Community centres, Valuation 958w
Council tax 1364–5w
Council tax, Appeals 777w
Council tax, Arrears 959–60w
Council tax, Coastal areas 227–8w
Council tax, Pensioners 778w
Council tax, Second homes 694–5w
Council tax, Tax collection 1195–6w
Council tax, Tax rates and bands 960w, 1195–6w
Council tax, Tax yields 1196w

***Healey, John,**—continued*
Council tax, Valuation 960w, 1196w
Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rating (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006 777w
Cumbria County Council, Equal pay 960–1w
Domestic waste, Waste disposal 228w
Empty property 1197–8w
European Regional Development Fund, North West 1374–5w
Floods, EC grants and loans 229w
Infrastructure Planning Commission 1202w
INTERREG programme 1193w, 1202–3w
Landfill tax 1204w
Local area agreements, Standards 1374w
Local authority business growth incentives scheme 970–1w
Local authority business growth incentives scheme, Newcastle-under-Lyme 780w, 971w, 1205w
Local government, Cheshire 401–2w
Local government, Codes of practice 1204w
Local government, Pay 1205w
Local government, Pensions 779–80w
Local government, Reorganisation 583w
Local government, Standards 401–2w, 780–1w
Local government finance 233–4w, 971w
Local government finance, Bury 53–4w
Local government finance, Lichfield 1203–4w
Local government finance, Lincolnshire 234–5w
Local strategic partnerships, Chorley 583w
London Development Agency, Standards 583w
New Local Government Network, Finance 972–4w
Non-domestic rates, Compost 227w
Non-domestic rates, Crossrail line 1206–7w
Non-domestic rates, Empty property 696w, 778w, 1198w
Non-domestic rates, Licensed premises 1212w
Non-domestic rates, Public lavatories 583–4w
Non-domestic rates, Tax allowances 973w
Non-domestic rates, Valuation 973w, 1207w
Planning 1207–8w
Planning, EC law 1208w
Public lavatories 782w, 1208w
Regeneration, Coastal areas 1209–10w
Regional European offices, Finance 236w
Regional government, Ipsos MORI 778–9w
Religious buildings, Valuation 1206w
Standards Board for England, Complaints 701w
Standards Board for England, Information officers 1375w
Valuation Office, Publications 1212w
Working Neighbourhoods Fund 586–7w, 977w
Working Neighbourhoods Fund, Leeds 588w

Health
Armed forces 454w
Regional European offices 482w
Screening 755–6w

Health centres
481w, 1008w

***Health centres**—continued*
Bassetlaw 992w
Birmingham 747
Rural areas 743–4
Tamworth 741w

Health education
Alcoholic drinks 182w, 901w, 1359w
Antibiotics 80–1w
Drugs 342–3w
Hepatitis 1313–4w
Prostate cancer 97w, 276–7w, 482w
Sex 911–2w

Health hazards
Opencast mining 251–2w

Health insurance
Dept for Children Schools and Families 406w

Health of Britain's Working Age Population Review
50–2ws, 835w

Health professions
Age 269w
Manpower 84–92w
Training 745–6

Health services
998–1000w
Cancer 81–2w, 257–8w
Children 990w
Dementia 548w
Detention centres 342w
Disadvantaged 746–7, 1001–2w, 1312–3w
EC nationals 91–2w
Elderly (13.03.2008) 115–50wh
Greater London 742w
Hearing impaired 254w, 549–50w
Nutrition 477w
Overseas visitors 269–70w
Prisons 1140–1w, 1278w
Private sector 742–3w
Prostate cancer 258w
Regulation 60ws
Smoking, 279w, 482–4w
Stress 670w
Strokes 990w
Voluntary organisations 669w

Health trainers
1141–4w

Hearing Aid Council
471w

Hearing impaired
Dept for Transport 1379w
Dept of Health 1144w
Health services 254w, 549–50w
Special educational needs 108–9w, 594w
Treasury 1215w
Waiting lists 93w

Heath, Mr David
Chamber Debates
Animals Act 1971 (Amendment) Bill, 2R adjourned (14.03.2008) 517–8, 549
Budget March 2008 (13.03.2008) 475, 479
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 187
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 1023–5
Questions
Business questions 425
Computers, Ministry of Defence 1305–6w
Corruption 1071
Mental health services, Admissions 1004w
Mental health services, Hospital beds 1315–6w
Nitrate vulnerable zones 403–4
Offenders, Rehabilitation 158–62w
Parliamentary scrutiny, EC law 1080–1

***Heath, Mr David**—continued*
Prisons, Food 510w
Prisons, Private sector 630–2w
Rape, Sentencing 511–22w
Schools, Closures 597

Heathcoat-Amory, Rt Hon David
Chamber Debates
Brussels Summit (EC) (17.03.2008) 627
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 156, 186, 231–5
Questions
Child benefit, Overseas residence 1213w
Disadvantaged 909
Mineral waters 397–8

Heathrow Airport
213w, 445w, 689w, 949–50w, 1113w, 1379–85w
A4 683w
Noise 527–8w
Official visits 493–4w
Profits 769–70w

Heating
EC law 44w
Solar power 623–4w, 989w

Helicopters
Military aircraft 1172–4w

Hemming, John
Chamber Debates
Commonwealth (20.03.2008) 1110, 1112
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 994, 1000
Questions
Business questions 1090

Hendrick, Mr Mark
Chamber Debates
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 171–2, 181
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 974, 1027–8

Hendry, Mr Charles
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 1031–5

Hepatitis
Health education 1313–4w

Hepburn, Mr Stephen
Questions
Bus services, Concessions 526–7w
Child Support Agency, Complaints 426–8w
Classroom assistants, Manpower 1424–6w
Compensation, Industrial diseases 276
General certificate of secondary education 1408–10w
General practitioners, Working hours 998w
Health services, Disadvantaged 1001–2w
Prison sentences 1356–7w
Schools, Buildings 1414w
Schools, Playing fields 1364w
Schools, Sports 1423–4w
Teachers, Manpower 1424–6w

Heppell, Mr John
Questions
Disadvantaged 913–4

Herbert, Nick
Questions
Action for Employment, Ministry of Justice 867–8w
British nationality 143
Courts, Disclosure of information 672w
Magistrates' courts, Leeds 629–30w
National identity, Public participation 156w

***Herbert, Nick**—continued*
Offenders, Rehabilitation 383w
Open prisons, Prisoner escapes 870–1w
Prisoners 158w
Prisoners' incentives and earned privileges scheme 509w
Prisons, Employment 379w
Prisons, Finance 872–5w

Hermon, Lady
Questions
Armed forces, Pay 708–10w
Child benefit, Overseas residence 116w
Education, Prisons 1093–4w
Police custody 157w
Sexual offences, Northern Ireland 199–200w

Hertfordshire
Ambulance services 740w

Hesford, Stephen
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 325, 335, 360–3
Questions
Buses, Driving offences 1377w
General practitioners 998w
Gifted children, Wirral 181w
Liverpool Airport, Security 356w
Population, Wirral 122–3w
Primary education, School meals 406w
Stress, Health services 670w
Suicide, Young people 406–7w
Vegetarianism 226w

Hewitt, Rt Hon Patricia
Chamber Debates
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 175–83, 193

Heysham
M6 952w

Higher education
Admissions 598–600w, 1019–20w
Business 1023–4w
Community relations 1019w
Developing countries 111–2w
Essex 598–9w
Student wastage 1021–2w
Teachers 112–3w

Highlands of Scotland
Post offices (18.03.2008) 214–22wh

Hill, Mr Keith
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Clapham (13.03.2008) 506–9
Questions
Developing countries, HIV infection 284w

Hillier, Meg, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office
Chamber Debates
Extradition, Cyprus (14.03.2008) 593–6
Questions
Animal experiments 407–8w, 601–2w
Animal welfare, Home Office 602w
Extradition, Bullingdon Prison 352w
Extradition, Liechtenstein 609w
Identity and Passport Service, Belfast 410w
Identity and Passport Service, Glasgow 411–3w
National identity register 609w
National identity register, Biometrics 602w
Passports 410w
Vetting 413w
Written questions, Government responses 409w, 610w

HIV infection
Developing countries (18.03.2008) 206–13wh, 273, 284w, 501–2w, 821–2w, 1179–80w
Morecambe 1314w

HM Courts Service
Wales 204w

HM Land Registry
see Land Registry

HM Prison Service
see Prison Service

HM Revenue and Customs
see Revenue and Customs

HMS Ark Royal
286w

HMS Exeter
1042w

HMS Illustrious
286w

HMS Southampton
1042w

Hoban, Mr Mark
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 354
Northern Rock, Nationalisation (10.03.2008) 49, 75–80
Questions
Abbott Mead Vickers, Cabinet Office 322w
Abbott Mead Vickers, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 540w
Academies 297–8w
Academies, Finance 166–8w
Adult education, Finance 596–7w
Advertising, Cabinet Office 323–4w
Advertising, Dept for International Development 283w
Advertising, Office of the Secretary of State for Wales 5w
Advertising, Treasury 116w
Apprentices, General certificate of secondary education 170w
Arrests, Greater London 782–3w
Civil Service Appeal Board, Cabinet Office 588w
Civil Service Appeal Board, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 516w
Civil Service Appeal Board, Dept for International Development 820w
Civil Service Appeal Board, Dept of Health 995–6w
Civil Service Appeal Board, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 1025–6w
Civil Service Appeal Board, Ministry of Justice 376w
Civil Service Appeal Board, Treasury 360–1w
Construction, Training 597w
Crime 602–8w
Crimes of violence, Greater London 339–42w
Culture, Education 681w, 836–7w
Data protection, Cabinet Office 1300w
Databases, Dept for Children Schools and Families 404w
Databases, Dept for Work and Pensions 17w
Deportation, Offenders 351w
Disciplinary proceedings, Dept for Communities and Local Government 961w
Disciplinary proceedings, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 37w
Disciplinary proceedings, Dept for Work and Pensions 1399w

***Hoban, Mr Mark**—continued*
Disciplinary proceedings, Home Office 341w
Drugs, Crime prevention 1245w
Education maintenance allowance 301–2w
Entry clearances, Contracts 102–3w
Flags, Home Office 343w
Information and communications technology, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 843w
Information and communications technology, Dept for Work and Pensions 1059–60w
Information and communications technology, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 100–1w
Intimidation, Dept for Children Schools and Families 406w
Iraq, Defence equipment 662–3w
Licensing laws, Prosecutions 1239–40w
Marketing, Dept for Communities and Local Government 1365w
Marketing, Ministry of Defence 458w
Media Monitoring Unit 1302w
Metronet, Finance 528w
Ministerial policy advisors, Prime Minister 449w
National insurance, Data protection 18–9w
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, Foreign workers 251w
Pay, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 25–7w
Pay, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 220–1w
Pay, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 845w
Pay, Ministry of Justice 1326–8w
Plants, Cabinet Office 324w
Plants, Dept for Children Schools and Families 593w
Plants, Dept for Communities and Local Government 695–6w
Plants, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 138w
Plants, Dept for International Development 504w
Plants, Dept for Transport 211w
Plants, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 101w
Plants, Home Office 787–8w
Plants, Ministry of Justice 627–8w
Plants, Office of the Secretary of State for Wales 5w
Plants, Scotland Office 525w
Prison Service, Redundancy 1084w
Public Services Forum Task Group 866w
Recruitment, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 139w
Recruitment, Dept for International Development 283w
Recruitment, Dept for Work and Pensions 1394w
Recruitment, Northern Ireland Office 199w
Reoffenders 384w
Resignations, Cabinet Office 1301w
Revenue and Customs, Data protection 1013w
Revenue and Customs, Pay 534w
Revenue and Customs, Postal services 720w, 891w, 893w
Sexual harassment, Dept for Children Schools and Families 594w
Sexual harassment, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 853–4w
Sexual harassment, Home Office 358w
Social security benefits, Fraud 436–7w
Students, Grants 600–1w

Hoban, Mr Mark—continued
Taxation, Self-assessment 370w, 534w, 1216w
Teaching methods 196w
Written questions, Government responses 1159w
Young people, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 485w
Young people, Dept for Children Schools and Families 405w
Young people, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 37w
Young people, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 110w

Hodge, Margaret, Minister of State, Dept for Culture Media and Sport
Chamber Debates
Harrogate Theatre (10.03.2008) 122–6
Westminster Hall Debates
Arts (20.03.2008) 295–304wh, 314wh, 331wh, 338–42wh
Questions
Abbott Mead Vickers, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 540w
Archaeology, Peterborough 540w
Art works, Loans 144w
Art works, World War II 135–6w
Arts 3–4
Arts, Apprentices 134–5w
Arts, Bexley 136–7w
Arts, Community development 1358w
Arts, North West 1045w
Arts Council of England 540w
Arts Council of England, Public appointments 314w, 541w
Convergence Think Tank 316w
Cost effectiveness, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 137w
Culture, Coastal areas 542–3w
Culture, Education 133w
Culture, Sponsorship 543w
Culture, West Midlands 1150w
Culture Northwest 1152–3w
Culture Online 542w
Eurostar, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 141w
Folk culture 16
Hotels, Standards 320w
Internet, Children 544w
Internet, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 316w
Listed buildings 7–8, 1050w
Museums and galleries, Closures 1362w
Music, Finance 321w, 1362w
Musical instruments, Loans 148–9w
Official visits, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 543–4w
Older workers, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 138w
Performing arts 1052w
Performing arts, Young people 1362–4w
Public libraries 1054w
Public libraries, Closures 146w
Publications, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 394w
Regional cultural consortiums, Finance 146w
Religious buildings, Bexley 544–5w
Sick leave, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 319w
Television, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 322w (475 1–2mc)
Theatre, East Midlands 313–4w
Tourism 1056–7w
Tourism, Coastal areas 14, 1057w
Tourism, Finance 545w
Tourism, North West 545w
Video games, Children 135w

Hodge, Margaret,—continued
Wind power, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 546w

Hoey, Miss Kate
Chamber Debates
Animals Act 1971 (Amendment) Bill, 2R adjourned (14.03.2008) 515
Commonwealth (20.03.2008) 1121
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 1018–9
Questions
Correspondence, Home Office 783–4w
National Lottery, Grants 143–4w
Postal workers, Dogs 1292w
Written questions, Government responses 783–4w

Hogg, Rt Hon Douglas
Questions
Lincolnshire Police, Finance 921

Hollobone, Philip
Chamber Debates
Commonwealth (20.03.2008) 1098
Questions
Bluetongue disease, Disease control 401
Business questions 427, 1092–3
Churches, Theft 1067
Dental services 742
Olympic Games, China 69–70w
Pregnancy, Streptococcus 748
Prison accommodation 132
Schools, Standards 899–900w
Topical questions 1081–2

Holloway, Adam
Questions
A2, M2 1111w
Alcoholic drinks, Retail trade 142w
Alcoholic drinks, Young people 312–4w
Bus services, Kent 1376–7w
Business questions 1096–7
Dartford-Thurrock Crossing, Tolls 1377w
Licensed premises, Kent 1048–50w
Ministerial statements 1079
Working tax credit, Foreigners 898–9w

Holloway Prison
Disciplinary proceedings 869w

Holmes, Paul
Questions
Dental services 990–1w

Holocaust Memorial Day
699w

Home education
1410w

Home energy efficiency scheme
44w, 408, 555w, 705w, 1295–7w

Home information packs
579–80w, 1199w

Home Office
Accountancy 926w
Advertising 928w
Animal welfare 602w
Correspondence 608w, 783–4w, 801w
Cost effectiveness 784w
Disciplinary proceedings 341w, 929w
English language 792w
Equality 785w
Fairtrade initiative 74w
Flags 343w
Impact assessments 785w
Information and communications technology 608w, 785w
Internet 786w
Labour turnover 786w
Legislation 786–7w
Marketing 789–90w
Official residences 802–3w

Home Office—continued
Plants 787–8w
Private finance initiative 341–2w
Property 788w
Public expenditure 788–90w
Public relations 929–30w
Sexual harassment 358w
Shropshire 358–9w
Television 359w
Translation services 790–1w

Homelessness
1199–200w
Departmental coordination 431w

Homes and Communities Agency
1200w

Homeworking
Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 485w
Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 219–20w
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 842w
Dept for Work and Pensions 1059w
Foreign and Commonwealth Office 326w
Solicitor-General 201–2w

Homicide
India 103–4w

Homophobia
Sports 1150–1w

Honours
Defence 809w

Honours and Distinctions Committee
see Committee on the Grant of Honours Decorations and Medals

Hope, Phil, Parliamentary Secretary and Minister for the East Midlands, Cabinet Office
Questions
Big Lottery Fund, Olympic Games 2012 1134w
Charities 863w
Charities, Political activities 323w
Charities Act 2006 1135w
Charity Commission, Finance 323w
Charity Tribunal 1135w
Children, Poverty 1135w
Departmental expenditure limits, Cabinet Office 707w
Disadvantaged 909–11, 913–4, 1134w
Disadvantaged, Rural areas 905–7
Non-profit making associations, Ethnic groups 460–1w
Plastic bags, Cabinet Office 865w
Plastic bags, Deputy Prime Minister 865w
Voluntary organisations 1303–4w
Voluntary organisations, Contracts 324–5w, 461w, 866w
Voluntary organisations, Finance 707–8w, 1134w, 1136–7w
Voluntary work 1135–6w

Hope Valley railway line
Freight 770w

Hopkins, Mr Kelvin
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (17.03.2008) 639, 652, 659, 664, 668–9, 678–9, 685–90
London Underground (10.03.2008) 98, 102, 106, 110
Questions
Business questions 423, 1095
Excise duties, Alcoholic drinks 120w
Greenhouse gas emissions 393–4
Religion, Education 185–7w
Smuggling, Tobacco 127w
State retirement pensions 1162w

***Hopkins, Mr Kelvin**—continued*
Tax allowances, Personal savings 128w
VAT, Fraud 131w

Horse racing
142w
Bookmakers 320w

Horserace Totalisator Board
16–7, 133w

Horses
Exports 223w

Horton
NHS treatment centres 1144w

Horwood, Martin
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (17.03.2008) 661, 673, 680, 694–5, 697–701
Westminster Hall Debates
Water charges (18.03.2008) 168–70wh
Questions
Global Fund to Fight AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria 1179w
Obesity, Artificial sweeteners 1007w
Pension Service, Telephone services 207w
Waste management, Finance 50–1w

Hosie, Stewart
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 317, 345–53, (13.03.2008) 441, (17.03.2008) 641, 648, (18.03.2008) 781, 784, 830
Winter fuel payments (17.03.2008) 719
Questions
Identity and Passport Service, Glasgow 411–3w
Manpower, Dept for Work and Pensions 569w
Passports 410w
Retirement, Dept for Communities and Local Government 962w
Retirement, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 417–8w
Revenue and Customs, Dundee 126–7w

Hospices
Finance 669w

Hospital beds
743w, 1145w
Mental health services 1315–7w

Hospitals
Cleaning services 270w, 747–8
Essex 270w
Food 93w
Lancashire 96w
Parking 1145w
Waiting lists 273–4w, 736–7, 743–4w, 757–8w, 1145w
Wales 1326w

Hotels
Standards 320w

House of Commons
Discrimination 1107w
Drinking water 1076–7, 1107–8w, 1307–8w
Plastic bags 199w
Police 1107w
Television 3w
Video recordings 1079–80

House of Lords
Reform 141, 372–3w

Households
Surveys 1215–6w

Housing
Armed forces 12w, 63–6ws, 286–9w, 452–3w, 964–5w, 1034–7w, 1166w, 1304w
Bishops 1068

***Housing**—continued*
Building alterations 61w
Carbon emissions 58w
Construction 59–60w, 584w, 968w
Demolition 967w
Disabled 400w
Easington 230w
Elderly 230w
Energy 964w
Finance 400w
Floods 1372w
Greater London 918
Immigrants 59–61w, 799–800w, 1201w
Low incomes 231–2w, 401w, 580–1w, 778w, 921–2, 961w, 965–6w, 1201–2w
Morecambe 231w, 1201w
Rural areas 778w
Shrewsbury 1201–2w
Standards 58w, 61–2w, 581–2w, 967–8w
Sustainable development 582w
Tamworth 400w
Thames Gateway 1202w
Valuation 895w
VAT 895–6w
Warrington (19.03.2008) 247–55wh
Water 69w
West Midlands 66–7w, 232w

Housing and planning delivery grant
62w, 971–2w

Housing associations
Standards 1372–3w

Housing benefit
205–6w, 431w, 885–6w, 1062w
Glossop 1395w

Housing revenue accounts
401w

Howarth, David
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (13.03.2008) 446
Questions
Business questions 419
Genetics, Databases 1070
Sentencing 142

Howarth, Mr Gerald
Chamber Debates
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 178
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 962
Questions
Construction, Public sector 536w
Public expenditure, Dept for Children Schools and Families 300–2w

***Howells, Dr Kim**, Minister for the Middle East, Foreign and Commonwealth Office*
Questions
Afghanistan, Armed conflict 1182w
Afghanistan, Detainees 858w
Afghanistan, United Nations 858w, 1283w
Colombia, Human rights 1182w
Iran, Hamas 1186w
Iran, Israel 104w, 1189w
Iraq, Peacekeeping operations 1186w
Iraq, Weapons 860w
Israel, Human rights 1029–30w
Middle East, Armed conflict 105w
Pakistan, Entry clearances 1187–8w
Rendition 1031w
Rendition, Diego Garcia 1184w
Saudi Arabia 1188w
South Africa, Chemical and biological warfare 862w

***Howells, Dr Kim**,—continued*
South America, Foreign relations 1030w

Hoyle, Mr Lindsay
Questions
Chronically sick, Chorley 259–60w
Developing countries, Elections 270
Housing, Construction 584w
Local strategic partnerships, Chorley 583w
Palliative care, Chorley 478–9w
Revenue and Customs, Chorley 891–2w
Sports, Chorley 15
Sports, Females 9–10

***Hughes, Rt Hon Beverley**, Minister of State and Minister for the North West, Dept for Children Schools and Families*
Written Statements
Young people, Antisocial behaviour 54–5ws
Questions
Children, Day care 299w, 402–3w, 611, 1068–9w
Children, Poverty 605–6, 677–9w
Children's centres, Ashford Kent 1071w
Children's centres, Loughborough 299–300w
Children's Commissioner for England 591–2w
Disadvantaged, Government assistance 1072–3w
Extended schools, Morecambe 1067w
Parental contributions 912w
Pre-school education, Enfield 1074w
Recreation spaces 914–6w
Schools, Inspections 609–10
Secure training centres, Restraint techniques 1103w
Sure start programme, Finance 612–3
Sure start programme, Lancashire 594w
Work experience 197w
Young offenders 386w
Young people, Crime prevention 1080w
Youth services, Enfield 595w

Hughes, Simon
Chamber Debates
Commonwealth (20.03.2008) 1098, 1100, 1105, 1111, 1122, 1136–8, 1167–73
Local Authority Powers (Election Campaigns) Bill, 1R (19.03.2008) 944–5
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 966, 977, 1037, 1039
Questions
Bingo, Taxation 134w
Business questions 414–6, 1087–9
Domestic violence, Immigrants 1279w
Electoral register 1063–4
Exhaust emissions, Aviation 405–6
Sites of special scientific interest, Standards 554w
Written questions 1078

Huhne, Chris
Chamber Debates
National security, Points of order (19.03.2008) 942
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 979–80
Questions
Accountancy, Home Office 926w
AWE Aldermaston, Protest 1039w
Bail 1082w
British nationality, Assessments 72w
Disciplinary proceedings, Home Office 929w
Firearms, Licensing 1276w
Firearms, Smuggling 893–4w
Foreign workers 365–8w
Immigration, Finance 932–3w
Immigration, Gurkhas 930–2w, 1258–9w
Nationality, Northern Ireland 719w

Hulme, Chris*—*continued
Offensive weapons, Convictions 1329–38w
Police, Surveillance 935–6w
Prison Service, Retirement 1337–48w
Prisons, Drugs 1099–104w
Schools 187w

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill (HL) 2007–08
Questions
Free votes 277–8, 917

Human rights
China 637–8w
Colombia 1182w
Israel 1029–30w
Malaysia 726w
Serbia 497w

Human trafficking
1258w
Children 930w
Females 1072
Prostitution 1279w

Humanitarian Assistance Unit
285w, 391w

Humber bridge
950w
Debts 123w
Tolls 445w

Humberside
Fire services (18.03.2008) 176–97wh

Humberside Police
74w

Humble, Mrs Joan
Questions
Army, Training 455–6w
Social services 748
Social services, Finance 735–6

Hunt, Jeremy
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 953
Questions
Art works, Loans 144w
Art works, World War II 135w
Arts, Finance 315w
Casinos, Opening hours 315w
Culture, Education 6
Gambling: Licensing 1047w
Gambling, Taxation 720–1w
Hotels, Standards 320w
Humanitarian Assistance Unit 285w
Licensing laws 16
Musical instruments, Loans 148–9w
Playgrounds, Expenditure 144–5w
Playing fields, Planning permission 682–3w
Regional cultural consortiums, Finance 30w, 146w
Tourism, Finance 545w
VAT, Tax yields 538w

Hunter, Mark
Westminster Hall Debates
Transport, Yorkshire and the Humber (11.03.2008) 38–40wh
Woodhead railway line (11.03.2008) 65wh

Hunting
1277w

Hurd, Nick
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (17.03.2008) 637, 642, 658

Hurd, Nick*—*continued
Questions
Schools, Sustainable development 919–21w

***Hutton, Rt Hon John,** Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform*
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (18.03.2008) 757–68
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 958–73

Iddon, Dr Brian
Questions
Information and communications technology, Dept for Children Schools and Families 604

Identity and Passport Service
Belfast 410w
Glasgow 411–3w

Identity cards
917

Identity theft
see Personation

Illegal broadcasting
Video recordings 1192w

Illegal immigrants
72w
Deportation 347–8w
Palliative care 338w

Immigrants
Domestic violence 73–5w, 1279–80w
Housing 59–61w, 799–800w, 1201w

Immigration
75w, 799–800w, 802w
Balkans 796–7w
Bulgaria 349w
Eurostar 800w
Finance 932–3w
Gurkhas 916, 930–2w, 1258–9w
Pakistan 795w
Romania 349w
South Asia 359w

Immigration controls
797w

Immigration officers
796w
Crimes of violence 798–9w
Manpower 798w

Impact assessments
Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 485–6w
Dept for Communities and Local Government 54–5w
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 1046w
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 843w
Dept for Transport 9w
Dept of Health 468w
Home Office 785w
Ministry of Defence 457w
Northern Ireland Office 388w
Scotland Office 1110w

Imports
Prescription drugs 745, 991w
Wines 491w, 939w

In vitro fertilisation
1314–5w

In work credit
570w

Incapacity benefit
826w, 1395–6w
Dorset 1062–3w

Incinerators
46–7w

Income support
Lone parents 826–7w, 1396w
Polygamy 432w

Income tax
East Riding 462w
Overpayments 719w
Tax yields 535w, 887w

Incontinence
Medical equipment 669w, 1002w

India
Homicide 103–4w

Individual support orders
932w

Indonesia
Official visits 860w
Politics and government 860–1w

Industrial accidents
205w, 1396–7w
Construction 206–7w
Materials handling equipment 18w

Industrial diseases
Compensation 250w, 276, 616w, 619w, 919

Industrial disputes
Cabinet Office 864w
Maritime and Coastguard Agency 278
SeaFrance 776w
Valuation Office 721w

Industrial health and safety
Cabinet Office 590w
Personal care services 832w
Training 852w

Infant mortality
Afghanistan 1177w

Inflation
368w
State retirement pensions 1065–6w

Influenza
1002–3w

Information and communications technology
Child Support Agency 1391w
Dept for Children Schools and Families 176w, 603–5, 900w
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 109w, 843w
Dept for Work and Pensions 17w, 1059–60w
Disabled 438w
EC action (19.03.2008) 1049
Elections 1085–6w
Foreign and Commonwealth Office 100–1w
Government Office for London 1199w
Home Office 608w, 785w
NHS 475–7w
Parliament 735w
Police 350–1w
Treasury 883w
Valuation Office 715w, 1220–1w

Information officers
Adjudication Panel for England 1375w
Dept for Children Schools and Families 594w
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 843w
Standards Board for England 1375w

Infrastructure Planning Commission
1202w

Inheritance tax
Armed forces 11w

Injuries
Children 1003w
Parliament 733–5w
Rugby 1003w

Inland Revenue and Customs Service
see Revenue and Customs

Inland waterways
689–90w

Innovation
26ws
Schools 189w

Institute of Education
Finance 912w

Insurance
Genetics 84w

Intermittent custody
1357w

Internal drainage boards
1296w
East of England 223–5w
South West 1296w

International assistance
Cameroon 281–2w
Iraq 1w
Kenya 503w

International cooperation
Nuclear power 616w

International Criminal Court
Democratic Republic of Congo 639w

International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia
494w, 1032w

International Development Association
502w

International Environmental Transformation Fund
225w

Internet
Children 544w
Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 1223w
Dept for Children Schools and Families 404w, 1071w, 1154w
Dept for Communities and Local Government 961–2w
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 316w
Dept for International Development 1178w
Dept for Work and Pensions 569w
Dept of Health 1138w
Employment Tribunals Service 155w
Foreign and Commonwealth Office 1026–7w
Foreign companies 980w
Home Office 786w
Ministry of Defence 810w
Regulation 75w
Security 864w, 1258w
Sports 1044w
Suicide 141–2
Surrey 249w
Treasury 1265–6w

Interpreters
Police 76w

INTERREG programme
1193w, 1202–3w

Intimidation
Dept for Children Schools and Families 406w
Pupils 608–9

INTO University Partnerships
Accountancy 491w

Investment
Beer 238w

Ipsos MORI
Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 1226w
Dept for Communities and Local Government 968w
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 681w
Dept for Transport 1385–6w
Electoral Commission 729w
Foreign and Commonwealth Office 1186w
Leader of the House of Commons 925w
Ministry of Defence 811w
Office of the Secretary of State for Wales 817w
Regional development agencies 617w
Regional government 778–9w
Scotland Office 1110w

Iran
Banks 330–1w
Capital punishment 1025w
Deportation 922
Hamas 1186w
Islamic Jihad 1186w
Israel 104w, 1189w
Nuclear power 1027–8w
Politics and government 642w
Sanctions 1028w
Trade unions 642–3w

Iraq
Asylum 348–9w, 355–6w, 801w
Defence equipment 662–3w
Detainees 1306w
Foreign relations 1028–9w
International assistance 1w
Peacekeeping operations 14w, 293–4w, 656–62w, 711–4w, 811–2w, 916, 1042w, 1169–72w, 1186w, 1306–7w
Weapons 860w

Iraq War Inquiry (No 2) Bill 2007–08
Chamber Debates
1R (20.03.2008) 1097

Irish
Television channels 149w

Iron and steel
Wales 6w

Islam
Further education 112w
Marriage 124w
Prisons 875–6w, 1095w

Islamic Jihad
Iran 1186w

Ismaili, Vladimir
937–8w

Israel
Conferences 331w
Foreign investment in UK 487w
Human rights 1029–30w
Iran 104w, 1189w

Israel Britain Business Council
Finance 487w

Israeli-Palestinian conflict
see Middle East

Itis Holdings
Dept for Transport 949–52w

Jack, Rt Hon Michael
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 319–27, 331
Questions
Flood control 400

Jack, Rt Hon Michael*—*continued
Whales, Conservation 408

Jackson, Ms Glenda
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 961

Jackson, Stewart
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 362
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 193–4, 202, 205
Westminster Hall Debates
Fire services, Humberside (18.03.2008) 192–7wh
Questions
Archaeology, Peterborough 540w
Armed forces, Uniforms 648–9w
Bail accommodation and support service 129–30
Bus services, Concessions 945–6w
Business questions 426–7
Childbirth, Peterborough 95w
Children, Poverty 1135w
Chronically sick, Peterborough 261w
Community Champions Fund 864w, 1080w
Economic and monetary union, Dept for Communities and Local Government 962–3w
Eco-towns 1210w
Empty property 58w
European Regional Development Fund, North West 1374–5w
Further education, Thames Gateway 585w
Gating orders 1251–8w
Housing, Floods 1372w
Housing, Low incomes 961w
Housing, Standards 967–8w
Housing, Thames Gateway 1202w
Internal drainage boards, East of England 223–5w
Land Registry, Retirement 869–70w
Listed buildings 8
Local authority business growth incentives scheme, Newcastle-under-Lyme 780w, 971w, 1205w
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation, Business interests 1211w
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation, Pay 1211–2w
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation, Public appointments 586w, 1205w
M25 771w
Members, Correspondence 1398–9w
New Local Government Network, Finance 972–4w
Non-domestic rates, Crossrail line 1206–7w
Palliative care, Peterborough 480–1w
Parking offences, Unpaid fines 690–1w
Petrol, Prices 1227w
Pharmacy, Opening hours 552w
Planning obligations, Greater London 974w
Property development, Floods 229w
Regional planning and development 970w, 975w
Regional planning and development, Thames Gateway 585w
Roads, Lighting 1373–4w
Roads, Peterborough 529w
Voluntary organisations, Contracts 324–5w

***Jackson, Stewart**—continued*
Working Neighbourhoods Fund, Leeds 588w

James, Sian C
Questions
Developing countries, Malaria 503–4w
Pulmonary arterial hypertension, Medical treatments 471w

Japan
Diplomatic service 332w
Foreign investment in UK 27w
Foreign relations 104–5w
Overseas trade 105w

Jellyfish
1125–6w

Jenkin, Mr Bernard
Chamber Debates
Brussels Summit (EC) (17.03.2008) 629–30
Budget March 2008 (18.03.2008) 779, 815–20, 848
Commonwealth (20.03.2008) 1105, 1161–7, 1179
Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Amendment) Bill, 1R (11.03.2008) 147–50
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 154, 161–2, 171
Questions
Afghanistan, United Nations 1283w
Ambulance services, Manpower 466w
Ambulance services, Standards 466–7w
Armed forces, Political impartiality 664w
East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust, Finance 470w
Fire services, Essex 1198–9w
House of Commons, Police 1107w
Road traffic, East of England 490–1w, 1293w

Jenkins, Mr Brian
Questions
Air pollution, West Midlands 938–9w
Big Lottery Fund, Tamworth 395–6w
Cervical cancer, Staffordshire 547–8w
Children, Abuse 298–9w
Class sizes, Tamworth 913w
Classroom assistants, Tamworth 907w
Community Fund, Tamworth 391–4w
Culture, Education 7
Disabled, Housing 400w
Disabled, Railway stations 772–3w, 1115w
Foreign workers, West Midlands 884–6w
General practitioners, Working hours 740–1w
Greenhouse gas emissions 394
Health centres, Tamworth 741w
Iraq, Peacekeeping operations 1171–2w
Local government finance, Lichfield 1203–4w
Manpower, Ministry of Defence 13w
National Lottery, Tamworth 322w
Offensive weapons, Football 934–5w
Palliative care, Tamworth 1317–8w
Patients, Religious practice 1000–1w
Police custody, Deportation 791–2w
Police custody, Staffordshire 871w
Pregnant women, Drugs 548–9w
Road traffic offences, Traffic lights 446w
Schools, Closures 597–8
Social services, Elderly 738–9
Sports, Females 1281w, 1364w
Sports, Schools 1361–2w, 1364w
Stop and search, Tamworth 806–7w
Suicide, Tamworth 463–5w
Teachers, Qualifications 854–6w
Temporary accommodation, Tamworth 1210–1w

***Jenkins, Mr Brian**—continued*
VAT, Sunscreens 722w
Youth services, Tamworth 596w

Job creation
Durham 123w
Public sector 888–92w

Jobcentre Plus
Citizens Advice 577w
Data protection 437–8w
Dismissal 1397–8w
Sick leave 1159–60w
Telephone services 570–1w, 1063–4w

Jobseeker's allowance
571–3w, 577–8w, 1398w
Disqualification 432–3w

***Johnson, Rt Hon Alan**, Secretary of State for Health*
Written Statements
NHS, Finance 59ws
Questions
Cancer, Screening 731–2
Departmental responsibilities, Dept of Health 744
Dermatology, Wirral 744–5
Doctors, Career structure 747
General practitioners, Rural areas 747–8
General practitioners, Working hours 740–2
Health centres, Birmingham 747
Health professions, Training 745–6
Health services, Disadvantaged 746–7
Hospitals, Cleaning services 747–8
NHS, Finance 747
NHS, Recruitment 746
Strokes, Health services 990w

Johnson, Mr Boris
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 1014
Questions
Community support officers, Greater London 280

Joint Armaments Cooperation Structure
see OCCAR

Joint Ministerial Committee
590w

Joint rapid reaction force
453w, 460w

Joint strike fighter aircraft
Procurement 294w

Jones, David
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 968, 1026–7
Questions
Disadvantaged 1134w
Electric cables 486w
Written questions 1077–8

Jones, Helen
Westminster Hall Debates
Housing, Warrington (19.03.2008) 247–51wh, 254wh
Questions
Alcoholic drinks, Antisocial behaviour 1049w
Arts, Community development 1358w
Arts, North West 1045w
Arts, Warrington 835–6w
Correspondence, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 316w
Culture, Education 835w
Culture Northwest 1152–3w
Departmental responsibilities, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 317w
Employment, Carers 484–5w
Housing, Low incomes 580w

***Jones, Helen**—continued*
Leisure, Warrington 322w, 837w
Local authorities, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 321w
Magistrates, Recruitment 372w
Official engagements, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 836w
Official visits, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 317–8w
Palestinians, Overseas aid 267
Performing arts 1052w
Public libraries 1054w
Sports, Facilities 837w
Tourism, North West 545w
Written questions, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 319w

Jones, Mr Kevan
Chamber Debates
Northern Rock, Nationalisation (10.03.2008) 25, 33, 37
Questions
Business questions 1089
Home energy efficiency scheme 1295–7w

Jones, Dr Lynne
Questions
Cattle, Animal welfare 1119w
Fraud, Child benefit 1212w
Fraud, VAT 1222w
Health services, Overseas visitors 269–70w
Intermittent custody 1357w
Israel, Human rights 1029–30w
Mentally ill, Medical records 475w
National identity register 609w
National identity register, Biometrics 602w
Personation 344–8w
Radioactive waste, Waste management 252w
Reoffenders 383–4w
Sewage, Water treatment 48w

***Jowell, Rt Hon Ms Tessa**, Minister for the Olympics and London, Cabinet Office*
Questions
Domestic visits, Minister for the Olympics and for London 817w
Humanitarian Assistance Unit 285w, 391w
Markets, Greater London 818–9w
Nations and Regions Group 390w
Olympic Games, China 69–70w
Olympic Games 2012 20
Olympic Games 2012, Construction 390w
Olympic Games 2012, Developing countries 70w
Olympic Games 2012, Finance 17–9
Olympic Games 2012, Gun sports 19–20
Olympic Games 2012, Overseas visitors 70w
Olympic Games 2012, Standards 817–8w
Olympic Games 2012, Stratford Station 391w
Olympic Games 2012, Voluntary work 69w
Olympic Games 2012, Young people 818w

Junior doctors
see Doctors

Juries
Mentally ill 1191–2w
Wales 373w

Justice Select Committee
(17.03.2008) 717

Kaufman, Rt Hon Sir Gerald
Questions
Business questions 414

***Kaufman, Rt Hon Sir Gerald**—continued*
Members, Correspondence 1398w

Kawczynski, Daniel
Westminster Hall Debates
Bovine tuberculosis (18.03.2008) 198–201wh, 204wh
Questions
Hospitals, Parking 1145w
Housing, Armed forces 1037w
Housing, Low incomes 1201–2w
River Severn, Floods 1299w
Saudi Arabia 1188w
Shropshire, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 854w
Shropshire, Home Office 358–9w

Keeble, Ms Sally
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (13.03.2008) 446, 471, 477, 482–6, 488, 490
Northern Rock, Nationalisation (10.03.2008) 54, 64–6
Questions
Business questions 421–2
Kenya, International assistance 503w
Kenya, Overseas aid 821–2w
Local education authorities, Standards 899w
Olympic Games 2012, Voluntary work 69w
Prisoners, Death 633w
Public expenditure, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 38w
Public expenditure, Dept for Transport 1379w
Secure training centres, Restraint techniques 635w, 1103w
Social services, Elderly 739–40
Sports, Schools 133w

Keeley, Barbara
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (13.03.2008) 435, 450

***Keen, Ann,** Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Dept of Health*
Questions
Alcoholic drinks, Misuse 96w
Antibiotics, Health education 80–1w
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Trust, Strokes 81w
Cancer, Health services 81–2w, 257–8w
Cancer, Per capita costs 667–8w
Cancer, Urinary system 280w
Cancer, Waiting lists 82–3w
Cardiovascular system, Screening 258–9w
Childbirth, Peterborough 95w
Chronically sick 260w
Chronically sick, Cambridgeshire 259w
Chronically sick, Castle Point 737w
Chronically sick, Chorley 259–60w
Chronically sick, Eastbourne 260w
Chronically sick, Norfolk 260w
Chronically sick, Peterborough 261w
Chronically sick, Shipley 95–6w
Dental services, East of England 262w
Dental services, Greenwich 262–3w
Dental services, Torbay 263–4w
Dental services, Waiting lists 264w
Dieticians, Greater London 468–70w
Health professions, Age 269w
Health professions, Manpower 84–92w
Hospitals, Cleaning services 270w
Malnutrition 273w
Maternity services 270w
Methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus, Death 94–5w
NHS, Crimes of violence 272w

***Keen, Ann,**—continued*
NHS, Negligence 261–2w
NHS, Public participation 96w
NHS, Reorganisation 271w
Organs, Donors 96–7w
Prostate cancer 274–9w
Prostate cancer, Health education 97w, 276–7w, 482w
Prostate cancer, Health services 258w
Prostate cancer, Lancashire 277–8w
Testicular cancer 279–80w

Keetch, Mr Paul
Questions
Armed forces, Housing 452–3w

***Kelly, Rt Hon Ruth,** Secretary of State for Transport*
Written Statements
Bus services, Finance 28ws
Railways, Franchises 74–6ws

Kemp, Fraser
Questions
Business questions 1089–90
Carbon emissions, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 247w
Carbon emissions, Dept for Children Schools and Families 154w
Carbon emissions, Dept for Communities and Local Government 695w
Official cars, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 615w
Official cars, Dept for Children Schools and Families 593w
Official cars, Dept for Communities and Local Government 962w
Official cars, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 1151w
Official cars, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 598w
Official cars, Dept for International Development 504w
Official cars, Dept for Transport 8w
Official cars, Dept of Health 1310w
Official cars, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 640w
Official cars, Ministry of Defence 810w
Official cars, Ministry of Justice 1190w
Official cars, Treasury 363w
Organs, Donors 96–7w
Serious Organised Crime Agency 357w

Kennedy, Rt Hon Charles
Chamber Debates
Brussels Summit (EC) (17.03.2008) 626
Budget March 2008 (17.03.2008) 690–3

***Kennedy, Rt Hon Jane,** Financial Secretary to the Treasury*
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (13.03.2008) 498–505
Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill, 1R (10.03.2008) 118
Northern Rock, Nationalisation (10.03.2008) 46, 80–4
Westminster Hall Debates
Revenue and Customs, Northern Ireland (12.03.2008) 81–8wh
Written Statements
Finance Bill 2007–08 63ws
Questions
Accountancy, Treasury 717w
Assets 715w
Bank services, Liechtenstein 115–6w, 370w, 537–8w, 883w
Banks, Iran 330–1w
Business, British overseas territories 1011w
Cancer 716w

***Kennedy, Rt Hon Jane,**—continued*
Charities 883w
Child benefit 716w, 886–7w
Child benefit, Fraud 1212w
Child benefit, Overseas residence 116w, 1213w
Child tax credit 532w
Cole Layer Trumble, Treasury 1213w
Council tax, Appeals 1213–4w
Council tax, Valuation 717w, 721w, 895w, 1214–5w
Data protection, Treasury 717w
Debts 361–2w
Floods, Repairs and maintenance 1014w
Gift aid 122w, 532w
Gift aid, Bexley 1012w
Households, Surveys 1215–6w
Housing, Valuation 895w
Housing benefit 885–6w
Income tax, East Riding 462w
Income tax, Overpayments 719w
Income tax, Tax yields 535w, 887w
Non-domestic rates 1012w
Non-domestic rates, Tax yields 1013w
Personal savings 719w
Property, Valuation 894w
Revenue and Customs, Chorley 891–2w
Revenue and Customs, Data protection 1013w
Revenue and Customs, Dundee 126–7w
Revenue and Customs, Fraud 885w
Revenue and Customs, Pay 534w, 893w
Revenue and Customs, Postal services 720w, 891w, 893w
Revenue and Customs, Reorganisation 892–3w
Revenue and Customs, Training 535w
Revenue and Customs, Whitehaven 533–5w, 1217–8w
Schools, Uniforms 371w
Smuggling, Firearms 893–4w
Tax avoidance 887w, 1013–4w
Tax evasion 894w
Tax yields, Bingo 370w
Taxation, Banks 365w
Taxation, Pensions 1218–9w
Taxation, Self-assessment 370w, 534w, 1216w
Valuation Office, Cole Layer Trumble 1220w
Valuation Office, Data protection 130–1w
Valuation Office, Digital technology 130w, 895w
Valuation Office, Industrial disputes 721w
Valuation Office, Information and communications technology 715w, 1220–1w
Valuation Office, Retirement 721w
Valuation Office, Rightmove 1221w
Valuation Office, Video recordings 1014w
Valuation Office, Visits abroad 895w
VAT 718w, 1014w
VAT, Fraud 131w, 1222w
VAT, Housing 895–6w
VAT, Leisure 371w, 465w
VAT, Packaging 538w
VAT, Rebates 370w
VAT, Registration 1221–2w
VAT, Sunscreens 722w
VAT, Tax yields 538w, 721w
Welfare tax credits 131w, 722w, 886–7w, 896–7w, 1013w, 1222w, 1267–8w
Welfare tax credits, Appeals 371–2w, 1015–6w, 1222w
Welfare tax credits, Compensation 127–8w
Welfare tax credits, Foreigners 372w
Welfare tax credits, Fraud 372w, 1015w

Kennedy, Rt Hon Jane,—continued
Welfare tax credits, Manpower 127w, 894w
Welfare tax credits, Morecambe 132w
Welfare tax credits, Overpayments 132w, 897–8w
Welfare tax credits, Overtime 1014–5w
Welfare tax credits, Preston 368w
Welfare tax credits, Training 896w
Working tax credit, Foreigners 898–9w
Working tax credit, Morecambe 538–9w

Kent
Bus services 1376–7w
Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 617–8w
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 852w
Licensed premises 312–4w, 1048–50w
Transport 531w

Kenya
International assistance 503w
Overseas aid 821–2w
Politics and government 332w, 494–5w

Key, Mr Robert
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 948
Questions
Bishops, Housing 1068
Disadvantaged, Rural areas 907

Kidnapping
Afghanistan 491–2w
Nigeria 646–7w

Kidney, Mr David
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 328, 371–3
Westminster Hall Debates
Community policing (19.03.2008) 223–8wh, 246wh
Questions
Children, Abuse 1067w
Children, Nutrition 995w
Crimes of violence, Sentencing 373w
Drugs, Rehabilitation 733
Flood control 399
Foreign companies, Internet 980w

Kilfoyle, Mr Peter
Questions
Afghanistan, Peacekeeping operations 10w
Parliament, Security 736w
Parliamentary Press Gallery 3w

Kingsnorth
Coal fired power stations 239–46w, 613–6w, 978–9w

Kirkbride, Miss Julie
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (18.03.2008) 759, 763
Questions
Casinos, Regeneration 10–1
Greenhouse gas emissions 393
Health centres, Rural areas 743–4
Vocational guidance 607–8

Knife crimes
see Offensive weapons

Knight, Rt Hon Greg
Questions
Motorways, Tolls 952w
Parliament, Parking 1108–9w

Knight, Jim, Minister of State, Dept for Children Schools and Families
Written Statements
Schools, Admissions 3–4ws
Specialised diplomas 63ws

Knight, Jim,—continued
Questions
Academies 297–8w, 901–2w
Academies, Finance 166–9w, 1404–6w
Alderman Blaxill School Colchester 603
Apprentices 169–70w
Building schools for the future programme 172–4w, 188w, 901–6w
Business, Education 679w
Children, Asylum 173–5w
Citizenship, Curriculum 923–4w
Class sizes, Eastbourne 175w
Class sizes, Tamworth 913w
Class sizes, York 176w
Classroom assistants, Eastbourne 175w
Classroom assistants, Manpower 1424–6w
Classroom assistants, Tamworth 907w
Community Champions Fund 864w, 1080w
Council for Learning Outside the Classroom 907w
Education, Assessments 171w, 176–7w
Education, Finance 177w
Education maintenance allowance 301–2w, 1407w
Education maintenance allowance, Fraud 303–4w
English language, Education 304–10w
English language, General certificate of secondary education 912–3w, 1407w
Faith schools, Admissions 1408w
Foundation schools 178w
Further education, East of England 178–80w
GCE A-level 909w
GCE AS-level 899w
GCE AS-level, Private education 186w
General certificate of secondary education 179w, 909–10w, 1073–4w, 1408–10w, 1421–2w
General certificate of secondary education, Apprentices 170w
General certificate of secondary education, Coventry 1409–10w
General certificate of secondary education, Eastbourne 179–80w
General certificate of secondary education, Pupil referral units 1413w
Gifted children 910w
Gifted children, National curriculum tests 180–1w
Gifted children, Pupil exclusions 181w
Gifted children, Wirral 181w
Headteachers, Qualifications 182w
Health education, Sex 911–2w
Home education 1410w
Institute of Education, Finance 912w
Literacy, Primary education 1410–1w
Local education authorities, Standards 899w
Mathematics, GCE A-level 183w
National curriculum tests 171–2w, 187–8w
Primary education 1073w, 1155w
Primary education, Admissions 921w
Primary education, Bournemouth 183–4w
Primary education, Per capita costs 309w
Primary education, Rural areas 912–3w
Primary education, Standards 184w, 1412–3w
Primary education, York 185–6w
Private finance initiative, Dept for Children Schools and Families 176w
Pupils, Accidents 187w
Pupils, Disadvantaged 917w
Pupils, Hay fever 913–4w
Pupils, Personal records 914w
Reading, Teaching methods 1411–2w
Religion, Education 185–7w

Knight, Jim,—continued
School leaving 908w
Schools 187w
Schools, Admissions 616, 900w, 916–7w, 1413–4w
Schools, Buildings 1414w
Schools, Capital investment 188w
Schools, Closures 597–9, 1415–6w
Schools, Crimes of violence 194w
Schools, Expenditure 917–8w
Schools, Fire prevention 1417w
Schools, Greater London 177w
Schools, Innovation 189w
Schools, Lincolnshire 918w
Schools, Milton Keynes 599–600
Schools, Offensive weapons 919w
Schools, Playing fields 1364w
Schools, Rural areas 1157–9w
Schools, Sports 1423–4w
Schools, Standards 899–900w
Schools, Sustainable development 919–21w
Schools, Transport 184w, 189–92w
Science, Teachers 614–5
Secondary education, Admissions 192w, 921w, 1417–8w
Secondary education, Children in care 921w
Secondary education, Curriculum 1418–9w
Secondary education, Greater London 919w, 1079w
Secondary education, Standards 1419w
Specialised diplomas 615, 1419–23w
Specialised diplomas, Rural areas 1423w
Students, Plagiarism 921–2w
Teachers, Disciplinary proceedings 194w
Teachers, Early retirement 194w
Teachers, Exservicemen 195w
Teachers, Graduates 193w
Teachers, Manpower 1424–8w
Teachers, Qualifications 195–6w, 854–6w
Teachers, Resignations 1427–8w
Teachers, Retirement 1428–30w
Teachers, Sick leave 196w
Teachers, Working hours 193–4w
Teaching methods 196w, 902w
Trust schools 196–7w
Vocational guidance 607–8
Young people, Unemployment 197–8w

Knowledge network project
124w

Kosovo
Overseas aid 1180–1w

Kramer, Susan
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (13.03.2008) 474–5
London Underground (10.03.2008) 101–4, 108, 112
Questions
Disadvantaged 910
Social security benefits, Fraud 437w
Social security benefits, Publicity 1161–2w
Winter fuel payments, Greater London 1066–7w

Kumar, Dr Ashok
Questions
Schools, Standards 603
Science, Teachers 614–5
Vandalism, Arrests 808w

Labelling
Food 267w
Genetically modified organisms 268w

Labour Party
Trade unions 279

Labour turnover
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 843–4w
Home Office 786w
Reserve forces 663–4w
Royal Regiment of Scotland 1043–4w

Lacrosse
1047–8w

Ladyman, Dr Stephen
Questions
Care homes, Finance 547w
Kent, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 617–8w
Kent, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 852w
M20, Road traffic control 772w, 1115w
SeaFrance, Industrial disputes 776w

Lait, Mrs Jacqui
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 312–6, 325, 356, 365

Lamb, Norman
Questions
Attorney General 1033w
Children, Death 1213w
Children, Maintenance 423–4w
Corruption 1033w
Foetal alcohol syndrome 1311w
General practitioners, Working hours 741w
Health insurance, Dept for Children Schools and Families 406w
Hepatitis, Health education 1313–4w
Hospital beds 1145w
Hospital beds, Mental health services 1316–7w
Maternity services 270w
NHS, Recruitment 746

Lammy, David, *Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills*
Questions
Apprentices 24–6w, 285–6w
Corporate hospitality, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 1017w
Disclosure of information, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 109–10w
Literacy, Adult education 1016w
Manpower, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 1017w
Pay, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 1018w
Train to gain programme 1024w
Vocational guidance 114w
Vocational training, Standards 1024w

Lancashire
Alcoholic drinks 79–80w
Drugs 1191–2w
Foreign workers 119–20w
General practitioners 756–7w
Hospitals 96w
Liver diseases 93–4w
Palliative care 479w
Post offices 1228w
Primary education 921w
Prostate cancer 277–8w, 369w
Road traffic 839w
Roads 692w
Secondary education 921w
Sure start programme 594w

Lancashire Constabulary
803–5w

Lancaster, Mark
Westminster Hall Debates
Developing countries, Water (19.03.2008) 267–71wh
Questions
Business questions 1089
Disadvantaged 909
Schools, Milton Keynes 600

Lancaster Royal Infirmary
1148–9w

Land
Contamination 779w
Dept of Health 737w
Ministry of Defence 709–10w
Prices 232–3w

Land Registry
Retirement 869–70w

Land use
Sportsgrounds 64w
Upchurch 1298w

Land Use (Garden Protection) Bill 2007–08
Chamber Debates
1R (18.03.2008) 752–6

Landfill
Plastic bags 1298w
Wales 1297–8w

Landfill tax
45–6w, 128–9w, 536w, 732w, 1204w, 1217w

Landing charges
British Airports Authority 445–6w

Lansley, Mr Andrew
Questions
Accident and emergency departments 254w
Antibiotics, Health education 80–1w
Barnet Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust, Standards 996w
Breast cancer, Screening 996w
Cancer, Health services 81–2w
Doctors, Career structure 747
General practitioners 267–8w
General practitioners, Working hours 741w, 742
Health professions, Age 269w
Health services, EC nationals 91–2w
Health trainers 1141–4w
Influenza 1002–3w
Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust, Manpower 996w
MMR vaccine 1005w
NHS, Finance 741–2w, 745–50w, 747
NHS, Negligence 261–2w
NHS, Standards 996w
NHS Direct 1005w
South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust, Finance 996w
Western Cheshire Primary Care Trust, Dental services 996–7w

Latin America
Asylum 337–8w

Law Officers' Dept
see Attorney General

Laws, Mr David
Questions
Afghanistan, Drugs 635–6w
Children, Autism 1068w
Children, Day care 402–3w
Contracts, Dept for Children Schools and Families 615–6
Education, Assessments 171w
Faith schools, Admissions 1408w

Laws, Mr David—continued
General certificate of secondary education 179w, 1073–4w, 1421–2w
Great Western Trains, Standards 9w
Headteachers, Qualifications 182w
Hospitals, Waiting lists 273–4w
Information officers, Dept for Children Schools and Families 594w
Mathematics, GCE A-level 183w
National curriculum tests 171–2w, 187–8w
Open prisons, Prisoner escapes 672–6w
Operating costs, Dept for Children Schools and Families 183w
Parliament, Information and communications technology 735w
Post offices, Closures 28–9w
Press, Scotland Office 1110–1w
Primary education 1073w, 1155w
Private education, GCE AS-level 186w
Pupil exclusions, Alcoholic drinks 1073–5w
Recreation spaces 914–6w
Schools, Admissions 916–7w, 1413w
Secondary education, Curriculum 1418–9w
Specialised diplomas 1419–23w
Specialised diplomas, Rural areas 1423w
Surgery 755–6w
Teaching methods 902w
Vocational education 922w
Vocational training 595w

Laxton, Mr Bob
Questions
Bus services, Concessions 440w
Pupils, Absenteeism 1157w

Lazarowicz, Mr Mark
Chamber Debates
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 209, 240–2
Questions
West coast railway line, Electric cables 213w

Leader of the House of Commons
Discrimination 1279w
Ipsos MORI 925w
Pensions 523w

Learning disability
Advocacy 471–2w
Employment 204w
Employment Tribunals Service 1193w
Voluntary organisations 1080–1w
Wales 204w

Leasehold
586w

Leave
Dept for Children Schools and Families 405w

Leave of absence
Speaker (14.03.2008) 513

Leech, John
Chamber Debates
Harrogate Theatre (10.03.2008) 119
Questions
Jobcentre Plus, Dismissal 1397–8w
Lorries, Safety 214w
Mugabo, Adela Mahoro 922
Social services, Elderly 992–3w

Leeds
Magistrates' courts 12–4ws, 144–5, 629–30w
Trams 776w
Working Neighbourhoods Fund 588w

Leeds City Council Bill 2007–08
Chamber Debates
2R order read (13.03.2008) 391, (20.03.2008) 1063

Legislation
Home Office 786–7w
Ministry of Justice 163–5w
Parliamentary scrutiny 74ws
Public participation 763–4w, 1278w, 1303w

Legislative competence
National Assembly for Wales 66ws, 461w

Legislative Reform (Health and Safety Executive) Order 2008
Chamber Debates
(18.03.2008) 895

Leicestershire
Co-operative Movement 1127w
Eco-towns 963w

Leigh, Mr Edward
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (18.03.2008) 796–800
Questions
Rights of way 563–4w

Leisure
Facilities 31w, 968–70w
VAT 371w, 465w
Warrington 322w, 837w
Wirral 1361w

Lepper, Mr David
Westminster Hall Debates
Licensing laws, Durham (19.03.2008) 288wh

Letwin, Rt Hon Oliver
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 949
Questions
Jobcentre Plus, Data protection 437–8w
Public expenditure, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 846–8w

Levitt, Mr Tom
Westminster Hall Debates
Woodhead railway line (11.03.2008) 63wh, 67wh
Questions
Hope Valley railway line, Freight 770w
Housing benefit, Glossop 1395w
Magistrates' courts, Buxton 1193w
Recreation spaces, Planning 1208–9w
Wind power 625w

Lewis, Ivan, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Dept of Health
Westminster Hall Debates
Health services, Elderly (13.03.2008) 133wh, 140–7wh
Macular degeneration (12.03.2008) 95–7wh
Questions
Autism 467w
Breast feeding 736–7w
Care homes, Finance 547w
Care homes, Manpower 1309w
Chronically sick 990w
Continuing care 467w, 548w
Dementia, Health services 548w
Dental services, Morecambe 737–8w
Drugs, Prisons 470w
Equality, Dept of Health 83–4w
Health services, Prisons 1140–1w
Health services, Voluntary organisations 669w
Hearing impaired, Health services 254w, 549–50w
Hearing impaired, Waiting lists 93w

Lewis, Ivan,—continued
Hospices, Finance 669w
Hospital beds 743w, 1145w
Hospitals, Food 93w
Impact assessments, Dept of Health 468w
Learning disability, Advocacy 471–2w
Learning disability, Voluntary organisations 1080–1w
Mental health services 744w
Mental health services, Admissions 1004w
Mental health services, Hospital beds 1315–7w
Mental health services, Morecambe 1316w
Mentally ill, Medical records 475w
Organs, Donors 737–8
Palliative care 477–8w, 481w, 670–1w
Palliative care, Barnsley 1007w, 1147w
Palliative care, Cambridgeshire 551w
Palliative care, Castle Point 757–8w
Palliative care, Chorley 478–9w
Palliative care, Eastbourne 479w, 551–2w
Palliative care, Lancashire 479w
Palliative care, North Yorkshire 1007–8w
Palliative care, Norwich 479–80w
Palliative care, Peterborough 480–1w
Palliative care, Shipley 97–8w
Palliative care, Tamworth 1317–8w
Patients, Religious practice 1000–1w
Self-mutilation 552–3w
Self-mutilation, Counselling 749–50
Social services 748
Social services, Elderly 83w, 738–40, 992–3w
Social services, Finance 734–6
Stress, Health services 670w
Suicide, Essex 671w
Suicide, Young people 406–7w

Lewis, Dr Julian
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 963
Questions
Future surface combatant 656w
HMS Ark Royal 286w
Joint strike fighter aircraft, Procurement 294w
Mann, Simon 861–2w, 1031w, 1188w
Type 45 destroyers 1174w
Warships 665w

Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust
Manpower 996w

Liabilities Management Authority
see Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Licensed premises
312w
Closures 156w
Kent 312–4w, 1048–50w
Non-domestic rates 1212w
Planning 1203w
Yorkshire and the Humber 310–2w

Licensing laws
14, 16, 134w
Convictions 1260–1w
Coventry 1044–5w
Durham (19.03.2008) 286–94wh
Fees and charges 1048w
Prosecutions 1239–40w, 1260–1w

Lichfield
Local government finance 1203–4w

Liddell-Grainger, Mr Ian
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 954
Questions
Business questions 426, 1096

Liddell-Grainger, Mr Ian—continued
VAT 1014w

Lidington, Mr David
Questions
Asylum, Iraq 355–6w
RAF Halton, Complaints 813w

Liechtenstein
Bank services 115–6w, 370w, 537–8w, 883w
Extradition 609w

Lighting
Roads 955–6w, 1373–4w

Lilley, Rt Hon Peter
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 331–8
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 157–8, 180, 188, 195, 218, 235–40, 249
Northern Rock, Nationalisation (10.03.2008) 52–5, 57

Lincolnshire
Crime 607w
Local government finance 234–5w
Schools 918w

Lincolnshire Police
Finance 921

LinkAge Plus
864–5w

Linton, Martin
Questions
Industrial accidents, Construction 206–7w
Plastic bags 404
Political parties, Finance 1281–2w

Liquefied petroleum gas
982w
Competition 249–50w

Listed buildings
7–8, 1050w

Literacy
Adult education 1016w
Primary education 1410–1w

Liver diseases
Lancashire 93–4w

Liverpool Airport
Security 356w

Liverpool City Council
Standards 699w

Livestock
Waste disposal 562w

Lloyd, Mr Tony
Chamber Debates
National security (19.03.2008) 937
Questions
Cancer, Screening 731–2
Greenhouse gas emissions 392–3
Health services, Disadvantaged 746–7

Llwyd, Mr Elfyn
Chamber Debates
National security (19.03.2008) 937
Questions
Community orders 136
Disadvantaged, Government assistance 1072–3w
HM Courts Service, Wales 204w
Juries, Wales 373w
Labour Party, Trade unions 279
National Probation Service for England and Wales, Manpower 381–4w
Prison sentences 385w
Probation, Domestic violence 380–1w
Probation officers 878w

Loans
Art works 144w
Musical instruments 148–9w
Students 29–30ws, 113w, 601w, 1022–3w

Local area agreements
Standards 1374w

Local authorities
Collective worship 700w
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 321w

Local authority business growth incentives scheme
970–1w
Newcastle-under-Lyme 780w, 971w, 1205w

Local Authority Powers (Election Campaigns) Bill 2007–08
Chamber Debates
1R (19.03.2008) 943–5

Local education authorities
Standards 899w

Local government
Cheshire 401–2w
Codes of practice 1204w
Pay 1205w
Pensions 779–80w
Public participation 693–4w, 700w, 972w
Reorganisation 583w
Standards 401–2w, 701w, 780–1w
Surveillance 77–8w
Wales 817w

Local government finance
233–4w, 971w
Brent 279
Bury 53–4w
Lichfield 1203–4w
Lincolnshire 234–5w

Local government services
64w

Local income tax
887w
Scotland 887–8w

Local strategic partnerships
Chorley 583w

London
see Greater London

London Development Agency
Standards 583w

London Local Authorities (Shopping Bags) Bill 2007–08
Chamber Debates
2R order read (13.03.2008) 391, (20.03.2008) 1063

London Midland
Correspondence 1375w

London Thames Gateway Development Corporation
Business interests 1211w
Pay 1211–2w
Public appointments 586w, 1205–6w

London Underground
Estimates days (10.03.2008) 85–117
Public private partnerships 918–9

Lone parents
Income support 826–7w, 1396w
Welfare tax credits 17–8w

Lorries
Accidents 1379w
Safety 214w, 1386w

Loughborough
Children's centres 299–300w

Loughton, Tim
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 1003–6
Questions
Blue badge scheme 439w
Children, Poverty 606
Children's Commissioner for England 591–2w
Research and development tax credit 1266w
Resomation 1357w
Smoking, Young people 1323w
South East England Development Agency, Property 839w
Transport, Shoreham 31w

Love, Mr Andrew
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (18.03.2008) 809, 814
Northern Rock, Nationalisation (10.03.2008) 31
Questions
Housing, Greater London 918
Olympic Games 2012, Gun sports 20

Low alcohol drinks
Wines 491w, 680–1w, 939w

Low carbon buildings programme
618–9w, 1231–6w

Low incomes
Employment 435–6w
Housing 231–2w, 401w, 580–1w, 778w, 921–2, 961w, 965–6w, 1201–2w

Lucas, Ian
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (18.03.2008) 828–31
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 153
Questions
Community orders 136
Global school partnerships 284w
Olympic Games 2012, Developing countries 70w
Prison sentences 378w, 1327–9w

Luff, Mr Peter
Questions
Border and Immigration Agency, Advertising 338–9w
Business questions 420
Energy, EC law 980–1w, 1129–30w
Members, Correspondence 801w
Post offices 1227–8w
Written questions, Government responses 801w

M1
A5 1113–4w

M2
A2 1111w

M6
Heysham 952w

M6 Toll
M54 771w

M20
Road traffic control 772w, 1115w

M25
771w

M54
M6 Toll 771w

McCafferty, Ms Chris
Questions
Females, Crimes of violence 1281w
Forced marriage 283–4
In vitro fertilisation 1314–5w

McCafferty, Ms Chris*—*continued
Rape, Prosecutions 1282–3w

McCann, Madeleine
784w

McCarthy, Kerry
Questions
British nationality, Assessments 73w
Secured loans 488w

McCrea, Dr William
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 1038
Westminster Hall Debates
Revenue and Customs, Northern Ireland (12.03.2008) 78wh, 86wh

McDonnell, John
Questions
Consultants, Ministry of Justice 151–2w
Departmental reorganisation, Ministry of Justice 154w
Equality, Dept for Transport 946w
Equality and Human Rights Commission 524w
Equality and Human Rights Commission, Greater London Authority 523–4w
Eire prevention 55–6w
Fire services 696w
Fire services, Floods 1371–2w
Fires, Grasslands 698–700w
Health services, Greater London 742w
National Offender Management Service, Manpower 156–7w
Parliament, Injuries 733–5w
Parliament, Security 733–4w
Pay, Dept for Communities and Local Government 1365–7w
Pay, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 138w
Prisons, Construction 162w
Probation, Standards 876–7w
Sustainable development, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 985w
Sustainable development, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 849–50w

MacDougall, Mr John
Questions
Defence equipment 655w
Dementia, Health services 548w
Poverty, Children 434–5w

***McFadden, Patrick,** Minister of State, Dept of Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform*
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Clapham (13.03.2008) 509–12
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 1036–40
Westminster Hall Debates
Post offices, Highlands of Scotland (18.03.2008) 219–22wh
Questions
Bankruptcy, Greater London 837–8w
Buildings, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 1286–92w
Employment, Carers 484–5w
Government shareholding 1225–6w
Impact assessments, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 485–6w
Kent, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 617–8w
Minimum wage, Disabled 487–8w
Minimum wage, Publicity 27–8w
New businesses, Morecambe 1237–8w

McFadden, Patrick,—*continued*
Office for National Statistics, Finance 620w
Post offices 838–9w, 1227–8w, 1291w
Post offices, Closures 28–9w, 252w, 488–90w
Post offices, Expenditure 621w
Post offices, Lancashire 1228w
Post offices, North Yorkshire 29–30w
Post offices, Rural areas 1291–2w
Postal services 1235–7w
Postal workers, Dogs 1292w
Regeneration, Coastal areas 1293w
Regional cultural consortiums, Finance 30w
Regional development agencies 621w
Regional development agencies, Complaints 536–8w
Regional development agencies, Derelict land 621w
Regional development agencies, Expenditure 1228–30w
Regional development agencies, Ipsos MORI 617w
Regional development agencies, Pay 29–32w
Regional development agencies, Visits abroad 31w
Regional European offices, Finance 1228w
Road traffic, East of England 490–1w, 1293w
Road traffic, Lancashire 839w
South East England Development Agency, Property 839w
Transport, Shoreham 31w
Union Modernisation Fund, Audit 31w

McFall, Mr John
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 305–13
Northern Rock, Nationalisation (10.03.2008) 21–9, 56

McGovern, Jim
Chamber Debates
Organs, Donors (19.03.2008) 1054

McGrady, Mr Eddie
Questions
Devolution, Northern Ireland 275–6

McGuire, Anne, *Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Dept for Work and Pensions*
Westminster Hall Debates
Disabled, Poverty (11.03.2008) 20–2wh (8mc)
Questions
Advertising, Dept for Work and Pensions 1393–4w
Boilers, Safety measures 205w
Buildings, Dept for Work and Pensions 1159w
Compensation, Dept for Work and Pensions 1390–1w
Complaints, Dept for Work and Pensions 828–30w
Cost effectiveness, Dept for Work and Pensions 1058–9w
Disabled, Broadcasting 1060–1w
Disabled, Information and communications technology 438w
Dismissal, Dept for Work and Pensions 824–5w
Eurostar, Dept for Work and Pensions 1160–1w
Food, Safety 265–7w
Health of Britain's Working Age Population Review 835w
Homeworking, Dept for Work and Pensions 1059w

McGuire, Anne,—*continued*
Incapacity benefit 826w, 1395–6w
Incapacity benefit, Dorset 1062–3w
Industrial accidents 205w, 1396–7w
Industrial accidents, Construction 206–7w
Industrial accidents, Materials handling equipment 18w
Industrial health and safety, Personal care services 832w
Jobcentre Plus, Citizens Advice 577w
Jobcentre Plus, Telephone services 1063–4w
Manpower, Dept for Work and Pensions 569w, 825w
Members, Correspondence 1398w
Official residences, Dept for Work and Pensions 1060w
Older workers, Dept for Work and Pensions 825w
Pensioners, Carer's allowance 739–40w
Pensions, Dept for Work and Pensions 1060w
Political impartiality, Dept for Work and Pensions 832w
Property, Dept for Work and Pensions 825–6w
Public participation, Dept for Work and Pensions 1060w
Recruitment, Dept for Work and Pensions 1394w
Sick leave, Dept for Work and Pensions 1159–60w
Sick pay, Dept for Work and Pensions 1394–5w
Social security benefits, Expenditure 1402w
Social security benefits, Publicity 1161–2w
Television, Dept for Work and Pensions 832–3w
Travel, Dept for Work and Pensions 1160w
Unemployment, Dyspraxia 833w
Vetting, Dept for Work and Pensions 1402–3w

McIntosh, Miss Anne
Chamber Debates
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 170
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 1037
Westminster Hall Debates
Water charges (18.03.2008) 154–5wh, 157wh, 170–2wh
Questions
Apprentices 108w
Cabotage 441w
Churches, Theft 1066–7
Devolution 202w
Energy, EC law 41–2w
Environmental stewardship scheme 420w
Excise duties, Fuels 120w, 1215w
Flood control 400
Flood control, Finance 704–5w
Floods, EC grants and loans 229w
Genetically modified organisms, Labelling 268w
Home information packs 580w
Hospitals, Waiting lists 1145w
Inflation 368w
Internet, Children 544w
Kosovo, Overseas aid 1180–1w
Northern Rock, Nationalisation 924
Olympic Games 2012, Construction 390w
Palliative care, North Yorkshire 1007–8w
Police, Finance 610w
Post offices, North Yorkshire 29–30w
Prison accommodation 131

McIntosh, Miss Anne—*continued*
Public expenditure, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 417w
Rural areas, Disadvantaged 905
Rural areas, Tourism 17
Social services, Finance 734
Special educational needs 1079w
Voluntary organisations, Contracts 461w
York, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 38–9w

McIsaac, Shona
Westminster Hall Debates
Fire services, Humberside (18.03.2008) 176–82wh, 190wh
Transport, Yorkshire and the Humber (11.03.2008) 35–8wh, 40wh
Questions
Community orders 375w

MacKay, Rt Hon Andrew
Chamber Debates
Brussels Summit (EC) (17.03.2008) 624
Budget March 2008 (13.03.2008) 439–40
Coroners, Points of order (18.03.2008) 751
Questions
Budgets 277
Business questions 425, 1092
Plastic bags 404
Prisoners' release 137–8

McKechin, Ann
Westminster Hall Debates
Nursing and Midwifery Council (11.03.2008) 47wh
Questions
Malawi, Orphans 272

Mackinlay, Andrew
Chamber Debates
Commonwealth (20.03.2008) 1099, 1104, 1132, 1135, 1145, 1147, 1153–6
Questions
Armed forces, Archives 1173w
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Trust, Strokes 81w
Business questions 1094
Care homes, Manpower 1309w
Caribbean, Royal visits 99w, 326w, 859w
Dance, Curriculum 616
Females, Politics and government 1074
Pension Protection Fund, Northern Ireland 1401w
South Africa, Chemical and biological warfare 862w

Maclean, Rt Hon David
Chamber Debates
National security (19.03.2008) 936

McLoughlin, Mr Patrick
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (17.03.2008) 644
Westminster Hall Debates
East Midlands Trains (11.03.2008) 52–6wh, 60wh
Questions
Roads, Safety 956w

MacNeil, Angus
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (18.03.2008) 802–3, 805, 807, 810, 850
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 181, 184, 194, 196, 203–5
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 990

McNulty, Rt Hon Tony, *Minister of State, Home Office*
Written Statements
Anti-terrorism control orders 24–6ws

McNulty, Rt Hon Tony,—*continued*
Police, Stun guns 60–1ws
Questions
Anti-Terrorism Crime and Security Act 2001 936w
Arrests, Greater London 782–3w
Arrests, Terrorism 807–8w
Arrests, Vandalism 808w
Borders, Police 783w
Correspondence, Home Office 608w
Crimes of violence, Greater London 339–42w
Criminal investigation 793w
Forced marriage 343w
Harassment, Armed forces 782w
Humberside Police 74w
Information and communications technology, Home Office 608w
Lancashire Constabulary 803–5w
Legislation, Home Office 786–7w
McCann, Madeleine 784w
Nottinghamshire Police, Manpower 76w
Police, Airports 609–10w
Police, Finance 610w
Police, Information and communications technology 350–1w
Police, Interpreters 76w
Police, Political impartiality 77w
Police custody, Death 803w
Security, Hazardous substances 680w
Security, Internet 864w, 1258w
Security, Liverpool Airport 356w
Stop and search, Tamworth 806–7w
Stop and search, Terrorism 676–7w
Surveillance 807w
Surveillance, Local government 77–8w
Telephone tapping, Costs 359w
Trespass, Aiding and abetting 607–8w
West Mercia Police, Manpower 805w
Written questions, Government responses 76w, 349w

MacShane, Mr Denis
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (13.03.2008) 466
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 165–6, 183, 189, 198, 204–11, 216, 249
Land Use (Garden Protection) Bill, 1R (18.03.2008) 754–6

Mactaggart, Fiona
Chamber Debates
Brussels Summit (EC) (17.03.2008) 628
Questions
Secondary education, Admissions 610–1
Young people, Training 282

Macular degeneration
(12.03.2008) 89–97wh
Drugs 270w
Moorfields Eye Hospital 1004w
Smoking 550w

Magistrates
Recruitment 372w

Magistrates' courts
Buxton 1193w
Leeds 12–4ws, 144–5, 629–30w
Telford 870w
Young offenders 870w

Mahmood, Mr Khalid
Chamber Debates
Animals Act 1971 (Amendment) Bill, 2R adjourned (14.03.2008) 545, 550, 558
Questions
Health centres, Birmingham 747

Main, Anne
Chamber Debates
National security (19.03.2008) 940

Main, Anne—*continued*
Westminster Hall Debates
Macular degeneration (12.03.2008) 89–96wh
Questions
Air pollution, East of England 730–2w
Chlamydia, Screening 259w
Correspondence, Home Office 801w
Education maintenance allowance 301w
Education maintenance allowance, Fraud 303–4w
Foreign workers, Restaurants 343–4w
General practitioners, Conditions of employment 268w
Genito-urinary medicine, Waiting lists 1311w
Information and communications technology, Dept for Children Schools and Families 900w
Property, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 485w
Property, Dept for Communities and Local Government 696w
Property, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 138w
Property, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 1122w
Property, Dept of Health 738–9w
Property, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 640w
Property, Home Office 788w
Property, Ministry of Defence 1040–1w
Property, Ministry of Justice 506w
Property, Northern Ireland Office 1109w
Property, Scotland Office 957w
Property, Treasury 363–4w
Travelling people, East of England 65–6w

Maintenance
Children 422–4w, 429–32w, 565–9w, 1057–8w, 1389–92w

Malaria
Developing countries 503–4w

Malawi
Orphans 271–3

Malaysia
Human rights 726w
Military decorations 859w

Malik, Shahid, *Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Dept for International Development*
Westminster Hall Debates
Developing countries, HIV infection (18.03.2008) 211–3wh
Questions
Afghanistan, Overseas aid 625w
Africa, Overseas aid 1178w
Animal welfare, Dept for International Development 505w
Burma, Overseas aid 625–6w
Cost effectiveness, Dept for International Development 504w
Data protection, Dept for International Development 1178w
Kosovo, Overseas aid 1180–1w
Malawi, Orphans 271–3
Nepal, Politics and government 505–6w
Official visits, Dept for International Development 819w
Plants, Dept for International Development 504w
Public expenditure, Dept for International Development 819–21w

Malins, Mr Humfrey
Questions
Immigration, Eurostar 800w

Malins, Mr Humfrey—*continued*
Prisons, Drugs 135

Mallaber, Judy
Questions
Strokes, Health services 990w
Vocational guidance 607

Malnutrition
273w, 552w, 1319w
Afghanistan 1177–8w
Developing countries 282–3w

Managers
Network Rail 1114–5w

Manchester
see Greater Manchester

Manchester City Council Bill (HL) 2006–07
Chamber Debates
2R order read (13.03.2008) 391, (20.03.2008) 1063

Mann, John
Questions
Cemeteries 142–3
Compensation, Industrial diseases 919
Health centres, Bassetlaw 992w
Health centres, Rural areas 744
Health services, Private sector 742–3w
Home energy efficiency scheme 408, 555w
Political parties, Finance 729–30w
Schools, Transport 766–7w
Students, Bassetlaw 601w
UN World Conference against Racism 1w, 330w, 726w, 1184–5w

Mann, Simon
861–2w, 1031w, 1188w

Manpower
Ambulance services 466w
Care homes 1309w
Child Support Agency 1058w
Civil servants 323w
Classroom assistants 1424–6w
Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 979w
Dept for Communities and Local Government 962w
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 1017w
Dept for Work and Pensions 569w, 825w
Health professions 84–92w
Immigration officers 798w
Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust 996w
Marine and Fisheries Agency 45–6w
Maritime and Coastguard Agency 528w
Ministry of Defence 13w, 1040w
National Offender Management Service 156–7w, 1087–8w
National Probation Service for England and Wales 381–4w
Nottinghamshire Police 76w
Office for Civil Nuclear Security 984w
Prison Service 157w, 1095–9w
Secondary education 1418w
Teachers 1424–8w
Territorial Army 295w
Treasury 362–4w
Welfare tax credits 127w, 894w
West Mercia Police 805w

Maps
EC law 972w
Floods 43w

Marie Stopes International
Finance 1315w

Marine and Fisheries Agency
Manpower 45–6w

Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Industrial disputes 278

Maritime and Coastguard Agency*—*continued
Manpower 528w

Marketing
Dept for Communities and Local Government 1365w
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 1017–8w
Home Office 789–90w
Ministry of Defence 458w
NHS 66ws

Markets
Greater London 818–9w

Marriage
Islam 124w

Marris, Rob
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 306, 311, 322, 341, 366–8
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 157, 170, 178, 191, 225–6, 228, 246, 248
Organs, Donors (19.03.2008) 1053
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 955, 970
Questions
Cycling, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 1285–6w

Marsden, Mr Gordon
Questions
Public appointments, Parliamentary scrutiny 324w
Regeneration, Urban areas 924

Marshall-Andrews, Mr Robert
Questions
Coal fired power stations, Kingsnorth 978–9w

Martlew, Mr Eric
Questions
Rutherford Appleton Laboratory 675–6w

Mass media
Technological change (20.03.2008) 295–342wh

Massereene Barracks
812w

Materials
Nuclear weapons 813w

Materials handling equipment
Industrial accidents 18w

Maternal mortality
Abortion 1308w

Maternity services
270w

Mathematics
GCE A-level 183w
General certificate of secondary education 1407w

Maude, Rt Hon Francis
Questions
Aviation, Cabinet Office 1300w
Aviation, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 1283w
Business Appointments Advisory Committee 98w
Charities, Political activities 323w
Charity Commission, Finance 323w
Civil servants, Manpower 323w
Disadvantaged 911
Electronic government 98w, 1302w
Government departments, Data protection 1300–1w

Maude, Rt Hon Francis*—*continued
Industrial health and safety, Cabinet Office 590w
Internet, Security 864w
Knowledge network project 124w
Legislation, Public participation 1303w
Ministerial policy advisors, Resignations 98–9w
Poverty, Children 913
Surveillance 807w
Television, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 322w (475 1–2mc)
Television, Dept for Transport 448w
Television, Dept for Work and Pensions 832–3w
Television, Government Equalities Office 524w
Television, Home Office 359w
Television, House of Commons 3w
Television, Northern Ireland Office 200w
Television, Prime Minister 1304w
Television, Scotland Office 1265w
Television, Solicitor-General 203w
Union Modernisation Fund, Audit 31w

May, Mrs Theresa
Questions
Business questions 411–4, 1083–6
Domestic violence, Victim support schemes 1075–6
Official hospitality, Government Equalities Office 4–5w
Public bodies, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 853w
Public bodies, Ministry of Defence 459–60w
Regional ministers 236w
Regional ministers, Official engagements 236–7w
Secondment, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 847–50w

Meacher, Rt Hon Michael
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (18.03.2008) 810–6
Questions
Business, British overseas territories 1011w
Fraud, USA 1033w
Heathrow Airport 1381w, 1384w
Housing associations, Standards 1372–3w
Overseas companies 1227w
Rendition, Diego Garcia 1184w
Tax avoidance 1013–4w

Meat
Waste disposal 562w

Meat Hygiene Service
472–3w

Mechanism for Determining the Pay and Pensions for Members of Parliament Review
62ws

Media Monitoring Unit
1302w

Medical equipment
Incontinence 669w, 1002w

Medical records
Data protection 744w
Mentally ill 475w

Medical treatments
Pulmonary arterial hypertension 471w

Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency
Standards 473–4w

Members
Correspondence 71–3ws, 76w, 349w, 731w, 801w, 812w, 1226–7w, 1374w, 1398–9w

Mental health services
744w
Admissions 1004w
Hospital beds 1315–7w
Morecambe 1316w

Mentally ill
Juries 1191–2w
Medical records 475w

Mercer, Patrick
Questions
Manpower, Ministry of Defence 1040w
Public expenditure, Home Office 788–90w

Merron, Gillian, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Dept for International Development
Questions
Advertising, Dept for International Development 283w
Africa, Foreign exchange 280–2w
Africa, Overseas aid 819w
Chad, Asylum 281–2w
Chad, Overseas aid 819–20w
Civil Service Appeal Board, Dept for International Development 820w
Developing countries, Education 504–5w
Developing countries, Elections 269–71
Developing countries, Food 283–4w
Developing countries, HIV infection 273, 284w, 501–2w, 821–2w
Developing countries, Malaria 503–4w
Developing countries, Malnutrition 282–3w
Developing countries, Tuberculosis 626w
Global Fund to Fight AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria 1179w
Global school partnerships 284w
Kenya, International assistance 503w
Kenya, Overseas aid 821–2w
Mozambique, Overseas aid 822–3w
Namibia, Floods 823w
Nigeria, Corruption 502w
Recruitment, Dept for International Development 283w
Sick leave, Dept for International Development 821w
Sudan, Armed conflict 823w
Sudan, Food aid 823–4w
Sudan, Overseas aid 284–5w
Sudan, Politics and government 285w

Metals
Exports 679–80w
Theft 936w

Meters
Energy 615–6w
Water 1299–300w

Methadone
271w

Methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus
Death 94–5w

Metronet
Finance 528w

Microgeneration
619w
Planning permission 20–1ws

Middle East
Armed conflict 105w, 493w, 643–5w
Peace negotiations 1269w
Politics and government 495w

Migration
Coastal areas 1194w

Milburn, Rt Hon Alan
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (18.03.2008) 782–7
Questions
Detection rates, Durham 1246w

Miliband, Rt Hon David, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Chamber Debates
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 152–63
Written Statements
Overseas students, Scholarships 22–4ws
Questions
Diego Garcia 102w
Diego Garcia, Rendition 1027w, 1284w
Eritrea, Ethiopia 329w
International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia 494w, 1032w
Iran, Capital punishment 1025w
Iran, Nuclear power 1027–8w
Iran, Sanctions 1028w
Iraq, Foreign relations 1028–9w
Kenya, Politics and government 332w
Rendition 1030w
Serbia, EC enlargement 1284w
Serbia, Human rights 497w
South America, Foreign relations 1026w
Sudan, Peacekeeping operations 1031–2w

Miliband, Edward, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Written Statements
Civil servants, Elections 74ws
Questions
Business Appointments Advisory Committee 98w
Cabinet papers, Freedom of information 323w
Disadvantaged, Children 1135w
Joint Ministerial Committee 590w
Ministerial policy advisors, Resignations 98–9w
Poverty, Children 912–3
Voluntary organisations 907–9, 1134w
Voluntary work, Sports 912

Military aircraft
1172w
Helicopters 1172–4w

Military bases
Cyprus 291–2w

Military decorations
Malaysia 859w

Military exercises
1038w, 1041w

Miller, Mr Andrew
Chamber Debates
Northern Rock, Nationalisation (10.03.2008) 22
Questions
Convergence Think Tank 12
Unemployment 915

Miller, Maria
Questions
Data Protection Act 1998, Prosecutions 1223w
Information and communications technology, Dept for Children Schools and Families 604–5

Milton, Anne
Questions
Breast feeding 736–7w
Chlamydia, Screening 668w

Milton, Anne—continued
Chronically sick 260w
Drugs, Rehabilitation 733
Flood control 398–9
Hearing impaired, Health services 549–50w
Hearing impaired, Waiting lists 93w
Pregnancy, Streptococcus 1323–4w

Milton Keynes
Schools 599–600

Mineral waters
397–8

Minimum wage
Disabled 487–8w
Publicity 27–8w

Minister for the Olympics and for London
Domestic visits 817w

Minister for the West Midlands
Departmental responsibilities, 63w

Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber
Official engagements 68–9w

Ministerial policy advisors
Prime Minister 449w
Resignations 98–9w

Ministerial statements
1079
Brussels Summit (EC) (17.03.2008) 617–31
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 285–98
European Council (17.03.2008) 617–31
National security (19.03.2008) 925–41

Ministers
Official residences 449–50w, 588–9w, 1009–10w

Ministry of Defence
Assets 1039–40w
Computers 1305–6w
Data protection 12w, 292w, 1040w
Disabled 1167w
Domestic visits 1133–4w
Empty property 810w
Equality 13w
Eurostar 13w
Fairtrade initiative 656w
Impact assessments 457w
Internet 810w
Ipsos MORI 811w
Land 709–10w
Manpower 13w, 1040w
Marketing 458w
Motor vehicles 293w
Official cars 810w
Official engagements 15–6w
Official visits 711w
Private finance initiative 292w
Property 1040–1w
Public bodies 459–60w
Public expenditure 711w
Security 292–3w
Theft 809w
Travel 14w, 293w
Wind power 296–7w, 663w, 1044w, 1307w
Written questions 458w

Ministry of Justice
Action for Employment 867–8w
Civil Service Appeal Board 376w
Consultants 151–2w
Cost effectiveness 1083w
Departmental reorganisation 154w
Departmental responsibilities 141
Discrimination 1190–1w
Equality 1083–4w
Eurostar 628–9w
Legislation 163–5w
Official cars 1190w

Ministry of Justice—continued
Official hospitality 152–3w
Official visits 672w
Older workers 153w
Pay 627w, 1326–8w
Plants 627–8w
Property 506w
Public expenditure 628w
Travel 628–9w
Tribunals 521–2w
Wind power 1105–6w
Written questions 629w

Misuse
Alcoholic drinks 70–1w, 79–80w, 96w, 310w, 465–6w, 546–7w, 926w, 993–5w, 1137w, 1270w
Cannabis 927w
Drugs 549w, 993–5w, 1139w

Mitchell, Mr Andrew
Questions
Departmental responsibilities, Minister for the West Midlands 63w
Developing countries, Elections 270–1
Publications, Dept for International Development 1269w
Sudan, Overseas aid 626w
UN Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses 824w

Mitchell, Mr Austin
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 323, 334, 377–9
Westminster Hall Debates
Fire services, Humberside (18.03.2008) 186–8wh
Questions
Bank of Credit and Commerce International 127w
Bank services, Liechtenstein 370w
Council housing, Property transfer 60w, 958–9w
Crime, Lincolnshire 607w
Freedom of information, Treasury 116–7w
Housing, Low incomes 231–2w, 965w
Humberside Police 74w
INTO University Partnerships, Accountancy 491w
Local government finance, Lincolnshire 234–5w
Prisoners of war, Compensation 12w
Schools, Lincolnshire 918w
Taxation, Banks 365w
UN Convention against Corruption, Prosecutions 627w

MMR vaccine
1005w

Mobile phones
Prisons 1099–104w

Modernising medical careers
see Doctors: Career structure

Moffat, Anne
Questions
Arts, Apprentices 134–5w
Rape, Prosecutions 1283w

Mole, Mr Chris
Questions
Vocational training 280–1

Moon, Madeleine
Questions
Electronic equipment 979–82w
Health services, Children 990w
Official engagements, Prime Minister 914
Police, Interpreters 76w
Prison accommodation 132

***Moon, Madeleine**—continued*
Prisoners, Suicide 510w
Self-mutilation, Counselling 749–50
Social services, Finance 736
Suicide, Internet 141–2
Young people, Employment 914–5w
Young people, Skin piercing 309–10w

Moore, Mr Michael
Westminster Hall Debates
Developing countries, Water (19.03.2008) 264–7wh
Questions
CDC 1268w
Fairtrade initiative, Cabinet Office 589w
Fairtrade initiative, Prime Minister 539w
Middle East, Peace negotiations 1269w
Palestinians, Overseas aid 268–9

Moorfields Eye Hospital
Macular degeneration 1004w

Moran, Margaret
Questions
A5, M1 1113–4w
Contact orders 298w
Council housing, Equity 63w
Drugs, Rehabilitation 733–4
Ethnic groups, Non-profit making associations 460–1w
Ethnic groups, Voluntary organisations 234w
Forced marriage 343w
Health education, Alcoholic drinks 901w
Parental contributions 912w
Pension credit, Widowed people 208w
State retirement pensions, Inflation 1065–6w

Moray Firth
Dolphins 1123w

Morden, Jessica
Questions
Gift aid 923–4

Morecambe
Dental services 737–8w
Drugs 1139w
Extended schools 1067w
HIV infection 1314w
Housing 231w, 1201w
Mental health services 1316w
New businesses 1237–8w
Public transport 446w
Welfare tax credits 132w
Winter fuel payments 834w
Working tax credit 538–9w

Morgan, Julie
Questions
Bail accommodation and support service 130
Business questions 1094
Females, Politics and government 1073–4

Morley, Mr Elliot
Westminster Hall Debates
Fire services, Humberside (18.03.2008) 188–9wh, 195wh
Questions
Animal welfare, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 488w
Animal welfare, Dept for International Development 505w
Animal welfare, Home Office 602w

Mortgages
888w

Motor vehicles
Excise duties 120–1w, 690w, 771–2w, 775w
Ministry of Defence 293w

***Motor vehicles**—continued*
Registration 1114w
Theft 936–7w

Motorcycles
Bus lanes 439–40w
Driving tests 8w

Motorways
Road traffic control 214–5w
Tolls 952w

Mountford, Kali
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 971
Questions
NHS, Finance 278

Mousa, Baha
1169w

Mozambique
Overseas aid 822–3w

Mudie, Mr George
Chamber Debates
Northern Rock, Nationalisation (10.03.2008) 33, 47, 50, 54–61

Mugabo, Adela Mahoro
922

Mulholland, Greg
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 1020, 1030
Westminster Hall Debates
Elderly, Health services (13.03.2008) 131–4wh, 141wh, 148wh
Transport, Yorkshire and the Humber (11.03.2008) 31–4wh
Questions
Elderly, Disadvantaged 866w
Elderly, Social services 739
Incontinence, Medical equipment 1002w
Iran, Deportation 922
LinkAge Plus 864–5w
Magistrates' courts, Leeds 144–5

Mullin, Chris
Questions
Business questions 1090
Ministerial statements 1079

Munn, Meg, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Chamber Debates
Commonwealth (20.03.2008) 1098–102, 1119, 1122, 1151–2, 1173–82
Written Statements
Diplomatic service, Fees and charges 40–8ws
FCO Services, Standards 57ws
Questions
Admiralty House 1181–2w
Afghanistan, Drugs 635–6w
Afghanistan, Kidnapping 491–2w
Aviation, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 1283w
Bermuda, Tourism 492w
Burma 722–5w
Burma, Arms trade 858–9w
Burma, Asylum 859w
Burma, Ethnic groups 636–7w
Burma, Sanctions 637w
Caribbean, Royal visits 99w, 326w, 859w
China, Human rights 637–8w
Civil Service Appeal Board, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 1025–6w
Colombia, Ecuador 328–9w
Colombia, Radioactive materials 638w
Committee on the Grant of Honours Decorations and Medals 638–9w

***Munn, Meg,**—continued*
Committee on the Grant of Honours Decorations and Medals, Appeals 1026w
Committee on the Grant of Honours Decorations and Medals, Public appointments 638w
Cost effectiveness, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 100w
Cuba, EC external relations 1182–3w
Cuba, Foreign relations 99w
Data protection, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 1183w
Databases, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 640w
Democratic Republic of Congo, International Criminal Court 639w
Diplomatic service, Written questions 102w
Egypt, Muslim Brotherhood 492–3w
Embassies, Waste disposal 642w
Entry clearances, Contracts 102–3w
Equality, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 100w
Equatorial Guinea, Diplomatic service 103w
Forced marriage 103w
Heathrow Airport, Official visits 493–4w
Homeworking, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 326w
India, Homicide 103–4w
Indonesia, Official visits 860w
Indonesia, Politics and government 860–1w
Information and communications technology, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 100–1w
Internet, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 1026–7w
Ipsos MORI, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 1186w
Iran, Politics and government 642w
Iran, Trade unions 642–3w
Israel, Conferences 331w
Japan, Foreign relations 104–5w
Japan, Overseas trade 105w
Kenya, Politics and government 332w, 494–5w
Malaysia, Human rights 726w
Malaysia, Military decorations 859w
Mann, Simon 861–2w, 1031w, 1188w
Middle East, Armed conflict 493w, 643–5w
Middle East, Politics and government 495w
Nepal, Politics and government 495–6w
Nigeria, Kidnapping 646–7w
Nigeria, Peace negotiations 645–6w
Official cars, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 640w
Official hospitality, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 326–7w
Older workers, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 101w
1 Carlton Gardens 99w
Pakistan, Diplomatic service 332w
Pay, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 492w
Plants, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 101w
Property, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 640w
Public expenditure, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 640–1w
Rendition 106w
Sick pay, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 641w
Somalia, Armed conflict 333w
Somalia, Peacekeeping operations 333w
Somalia, Police 333–4w
South America, Diplomatic service 106w

***Munn, Meg,**—continued*
South America, Foreign relations 497–8w
Sudan, Armed conflict 106–7w, 498–9w, 1188w
Sudan, Arms trade 334w
Sudan, Censorship 862w
Sudan, China 726–8w
Sudan, Females 499–500w
Sudan, Overseas aid 499w
Sudan, Peace negotiations 107w, 863w
Sudan, Peacekeeping operations 107–8w, 334–5w, 500w
Sudan, Sanctions 1284–5w
Temporary employment, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 327–8w
Translation services, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 102w
Travel, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 1183–4w
Uganda, Armed conflict 500–1w, 1032w
Uganda, Peace negotiations 647–8w, 1188–9w
UN Security Council, Sanctions 108w
UN World Conference against Racism 1w, 330w, 726w, 1184–5w
Visits, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 332–3w
Written questions, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 327–8w
Zimbabwe, EC external relations 335w
Zimbabwe, Elections 335w, 501w
Zimbabwe, Politics and government 336w
Zimbabwe, Sanctions 336w

Murphy, Mr Denis
Questions
Prison Service, Manpower 1095–9w
Prisoners 1089–94w
Prisoners, Females 1094–6w
Prisoners on remand 1347–51w

***Murphy, Jim,** Minister for Europe, Foreign and Commonwealth Office*
Chamber Debates
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 243, 246–50
Written Statements
EU General Affairs and External Relations Council 57–9ws
NATO 29ws
Russia, Diplomatic service 69ws
Questions
Cyprus, Politics and government 639w, 1183w
EC common foreign and security policy 811w, 813–4w
EC defence policy 1183w
European Commission, Offices 329–30w
European Union 1185w
Germany, Antisemitism 1185w
Russia, Politics and government 861w
Seas and oceans, Environment protection 725–6w
Treaty of Lisbon 714–5w, 811w, 813–4w
Treaty of Lisbon, Referendums 647w

***Murphy, Rt Hon Paul,** Secretary of State for Wales*
Written Statements
National Assembly for Wales, Legislative competence 66ws
Questions
Advertising, Office of the Secretary of State for Wales 5w
British Irish Council 1325w
Brofiscin quarry, Hazardous substances 814–5w, 1294–5w, 1297–8w
Citizenship Review, Wales 816w
Council tax, Wales 1325w

***Murphy, Rt Hon Paul,**—continued*
Data protection, Office of the Secretary of State for Wales 5w
Devolution, Wales 6w, 1325–6w
Discrimination, Office of the Secretary of State for Wales 816–7w
Fly tipping, Wales 925w
Foreign relations, Wales 203w
HM Courts Service, Wales 204w
Hospitals, Wales 1326w
Ipsos MORI, Office of the Secretary of State for Wales 817w
Iron and steel, Wales 6w
Learning disability, Employment 204w
Local government, Wales 817w
National Assembly for Wales, Legislative competence 461w
Official visits, Office of the Secretary of State for Wales 816w
Pensions, Office of the Secretary of State for Wales 816w
Plants, Office of the Secretary of State for Wales 5w
Public expenditure, Office of the Secretary of State for Wales 5–6w
Unemployment, Wales 204–5w
Written questions, Office of the Secretary of State for Wales 6w

Murrison, Dr Andrew
Chamber Debates
Chippenham Hospital (18.03.2008) 898
Commonwealth (20.03.2008) 1103, 1112, 1115
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 976
Questions
Armed forces, Conditions of employment 1034w
Armed forces, Foreigners 1164w
Armed forces, Health 454w
Armed forces, Housing 12w, 1037w, 1166w
National Recognition of our Armed Forces Inquiry 1043w
Plastics, Waste disposal 1131w
Prisoners' release 1351–5w

Museums and galleries
1051w
Closures 1362w

Music
Finance 321w, 1362w

Musical instruments
Loans 148–9w

Muslim Brotherhood
Egypt 492–3w

Nail Bars and Special Treatment Premises (Regulation) Bill 2007–08
Chamber Debates
1R (17.03.2008) 632–4

Namibia
Floods 829w

National Assembly for Wales
Legislative competence 66ws, 461w

National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Education and Training) Order 2008
Chamber Debates
(19.03.2008) 1048

National asset register
125w

National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux
see Citizens Advice

National curriculum tests
171–2w, 187–8w
Gifted children 180–1w

National identity
Public participation 156w

National identity register
609w
Biometrics 602w

National insurance
573–6w
Data protection 18–9w
Foreign workers 574–7w

National insurance contributions
45w

National Lottery
Grants 143–4w, 1047w
Swimming 321w
Tamworth 322w

National Lottery Distribution Fund
135w

National Meat Hygiene Service
see Meat Hygiene Service

National offender management information system
153–4w

National Offender Management Service
Manpower 156–7w, 1087–8w

National Probation Service for England and Wales
Manpower 381–4w

National Recognition of our Armed Forces Inquiry
1043w

National security
410w
Dept for Communities and Local Government 63w
Ministerial statements (19.03.2008) 925–41

National Statistics
see Office for National Statistics

Nationalisation
Northern Rock 53–4ws, 369w, 924

Nationality
Northern Ireland 719w

Nations and Regions Group
390w

NATO
29ws

NATO enlargement
Eastern Europe 655w

Natural gas
Distribution 982–3w

Nature conservation
71–2w, 1126w, 1298w
Crime 867–8w

Navy
Data protection 812–3w
Deployment 459w

Negligence
NHS 261–2w

Neill, Robert
Questions
Arts Council of England 540w
Arts Council of England, Public appointments 314w, 541w
Boilers, Safety measures 205w, 399–400w
Casinos, Greater Manchester 579w
Casinos, Planning permission 235w
Constituencies 150w
Data protection, Dept for Communities and Local Government 961w
Debt collection 163w
Debt collection, Powers of entry 157–8w

***Neill, Robert**—continued*
Elections, Fraud 155w
Environment protection, Fixed penalties 42w
Enviros Consulting, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 702w
Fire services, Consultants 697–8w
Floods, Maps 43w
Floods, Property development 57w
Government Office for London, Powers 57w
Home information packs 579–80w, 1199w
House of Commons, Plastic bags 199w
Housing, Standards 581–2w
Landfill tax 45–6w
Leasehold 586w
London Development Agency, Standards 583w
London Underground, Public private partnerships 918–9
Minimum wage, Publicity 27–8w
Ministers, Official residences 1009–10w
National asset register 125w
National insurance contributions 45w
Non-domestic rates, Compost 227w
Police, Finance 1259–60w
Police, Political impartiality 77w
Population 125–6w
Public libraries, Closures 146w
Public libraries, Cost effectiveness 233w
Public participation, Dept for Communities and Local Government 696w
Public sector, Pay 125w
Recycling, Finance 562–3w
Regional European offices 252–3w
Regional European offices, Finance 236w
Regional European offices, Health 482w
Regional ministers 65w
Regional planning and development, South East 237w
Roads, Repairs and maintenance 216–7w, 446–7w
Social services, Elderly 83w
Standards Board for England, Complaints 701w
Surveillance, Local government 77–8w
Tolls, Greater London 130w
Transport, Urban areas 448–9w
Valuation Office, Data protection 130–1w
Valuation Office, Digital technology 130w, 895w
Valuation Office, Information and communications technology 715w, 1220w
Valuation Office, Retirement 721w
Valuation Office, Video recordings 1014w
Valuation Office, Visits abroad 895w
Waste disposal, Crown lands and estates 41w
Waste disposal, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 221w
Waste disposal, Domestic waste 55w, 222w, 421–2w, 1367–8w
Waste disposal, Fees and charges 40w, 49–50w, 222w, 555–6w, 558w
Waste disposal, Scotland 40–1w

Nepal
Politics and government 495–6w, 505–6w

Network Rail
Managers 1114–5w

New businesses
Morecambe 1237–8w

New deal for disabled people
Dorset 827w

New deal schemes
20–4w, 30–2ws

New Local Government Network
Finance 972–4w

New Southern Railway
see Southern

Newcastle-under-Lyme
Local authority business growth incentives scheme 780w, 971w, 1205w

Newmark, Brooks
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (17.03.2008) 693
Extradition, Cyprus (14.03.2008) 589–93, 595
Questions
Domestic violence, Victim support schemes 1074–5
Village halls 227w
Village halls, Finance 1212w

Newspaper press
Packaging 407

Newton Aycliffe
Regeneration (11.03.2008) 256–64

Newts
555w

NHS
Crimes of violence 272w
Disciplinary proceedings 992w
Drugs 1006w
Email 1146w
Finance 59ws, 278, 741–2w, 744–50w, 747, 749–56w, 1140w
Fraud 1006w
Geographical information systems 755w
Information and communications technology 475–7w
Marketing 66ws
Negligence 261–2w
Procurement 743
Public participation 96w
Recruitment 746
Reorganisation 271w
Standards 996w

NHS Direct
1005w

NHS Local Improvement Finance Trust
475w

NHS treatment centres
Horton 1144w

Nigeria
Corruption 502w
Kidnapping 646–7w
Peace negotiations 645–6w

Night flying
East Midlands 528–9w
Greater London 528–9w

Nimrod aircraft
714w

NIREX
see United Kingdom NIREX

Nitrate vulnerable zones
403–4

Noise
Aviation 63–4w
Dogs 941–2w
Heathrow Airport 527–8w
Pollution control 225–6w

Non-domestic rates
1012w
Compost 227w
Crossrail line 1206–7w
Empty property 696w, 778w, 1198w

***Non-domestic rates**—continued*
Licensed premises 1212w
Public lavatories 583–4w
Tax allowances 973w
Tax yields 1013w
Valuation 973w, 1207w

Non-Domestic Rating (Unoccupied Property) (England) Regulations 2008
Chamber Debates
(10.03.2008) 118

Non-profit making associations
Ethnic groups 460–1w

Norfolk
Chronically sick 260w
Roads (12.03.2008) 106–14wh

North East
Transport 448w

North West
Arts 1045w
European Regional Development Fund 1374–5w
Regional planning and development 68ws
Tourism 545w

North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Standards 1003w

North Yorkshire
Palliative care 1007–8w
Post offices 29–30w

Northern Ireland
Crime 539w
Devolution 275–6, 282
Nationality 719w
Pension Protection Fund 1401w
Prisons 1278w
Revenue and Customs (12.03.2008) 71–88wh
Sexual offences 199–200w, 389–90w

Northern Ireland Office
Cost effectiveness 387–8w
Impact assessments 388w
Official hospitality 388w
Older workers 199w
Property 1109w
Public expenditure 388w
Recruitment 199w
Television 200w
Written questions 388–9w

Northern Rock
Estimates days (10.03.2008) 21–84
Nationalisation 53–4ws, 369w, 924

Northern Rock plc Compensation Scheme Order 2008
Chamber Debates
(11.03.2008) 254

Norwich
Palliative care 479–80w

Nottingham City Council Bill 2007–08
Chamber Debates
2R order read (13.03.2008) 391, (20.03.2008) 1063

Nottinghamshire Police
Manpower 76w

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Finance 620w
Foreign workers 251w

Nuclear fuel reprocessing
620w

Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Executive
see United Kingdom NIREX

Nuclear power
International cooperation 616w
Iran 1027–8w

Nuclear weapons
Materials 813w
Transport 663w

Nursing and Midwifery Council
(11.03.2008) 46–51wh, 272w, 550–1w

Nursing homes
see Care homes

Nutrition
1006w
Children 273w, 995w
Health services 477w

Oaten, Mr Mark
Questions
Bus services, Concessions 945w
Hearing impaired, Health services 254w
In vitro fertilisation 1314w
Leisure, Facilities 31w, 969–70w
Leisure, VAT 371w
Liquefied petroleum gas, Competition 249–50w
Poultry, Animal welfare 47w

Obesity
1051w
Artificial sweeteners 1007w

O'Brien, Mike, Minister of State, Dept for Work and Pensions
Chamber Debates
Winter fuel payments (17.03.2008) 724–30
Questions
Disadvantaged, Elderly 866w
LinkAge Plus 864–5w
Occupational pensions 827–8w, 1399w
Pension credit 1064w
Pension credit, Bexley 207w
Pension credit, Widowed people 208w
Pension Protection Fund, Northern Ireland 1401w
Pension Service, Telephone services 207w
Pensioners 1063–5w, 1399–400w
Pensioners, Income 830–1w
Pensioners, Poverty 831w
Pensions Education Fund 433–4w
Personal Accounts Delivery Authority 831w
State retirement pensions 208w, 434w, 1162–3w, 1403–4w
State retirement pensions, Inflation 1065–6w
Winter fuel payments 833–4w, 840w
Winter fuel payments, Castle Point 23w
Winter fuel payments, Greater London 1066–7w
Winter fuel payments, Hampshire 208–9w, 834w
Winter fuel payments, Morecambe 834w

O'Brien, Mr Stephen
Westminster Hall Debates
Health services, Elderly (13.03.2008) 121–4wh, 130wh, 134–40wh, 148–9wh
Questions
Arthritis, Drugs 1137–8w
Chequers 1009w
Internet, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 1223w
Internet, Dept for Children Schools and Families 404w, 1071w, 1154w
Internet, Dept for International Development 1178w
Internet, Home Office 786w
Internet, Ministry of Defence 810w
Internet, Treasury 1265–6w
Malnutrition 273w, 552w, 1319w

O'Brien, Mr Stephen—continued
NHS, Email 1146w
NHS, Public participation 96w
Nutrition, Health services 477w
Patient choice schemes 1318w
Voluntary organisations, Contracts 866w
Written questions, Government responses 814w, 1181w

OCCAR
Finance 294w

Occupational Pension Schemes (Levies) (Amendment) Regulations 2008
Chamber Debates
(18.03.2008) 895

Occupational Pension Schemes (Levy Ceiling) Order 2008
Chamber Debates
(18.03.2008) 895

Occupational pensions
827–8w, 1399w

Offences against children
Reoffenders 77w

Offender Management Act 2007 (Consequential Amendments) Order 2008
Chamber Debates
(18.03.2008) 895

Offenders
Deportation 347–51w
Entry clearances 792w
Rehabilitation 140–1, 145–6, 158–62w, 313w, 383w
Social security benefits 870w

Offensive weapons
Convictions 1329–38w
Football 934–5w
Pupil exclusions 1155–6w
Schools 919w

Office for Civil Nuclear Security
Manpower 984w

Office for National Statistics
Finance 620w

Office for Tenants and Social Landlords
see Tenant Services Authority

Office of the Secretary of State for Wales
Advertising 5w
Data protection 5w
Discrimination 816–7w
Ipsos MORI 817w
Official visits 816w
Pensions 816w
Plants 5w
Public expenditure 5–6w
Written questions 6w

Offices
European Commission 329–30w

Official cars
442w
Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 615w
Dept for Children Schools and Families 593w
Dept for Communities and Local Government 962w
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 1151w
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 598w
Dept for International Development 504w
Dept for Transport 8w
Dept of Health 1310w
Foreign and Commonwealth Office 640w
Ministry of Defence 810w
Ministry of Justice 1190w
Treasury 363w

Official engagements
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 836w
Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber 68–9w
Ministry of Defence 15–6w
Prime Minister 273–4, 914
Regional ministers 65w, 236–7w
Scotland Office 2–3w

Official hospitality
Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 679w
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 1151w
Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 37–8w
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 844w
Dept for Transport 442–3w
Foreign and Commonwealth Office 326–7w
Government Equalities Office 4–5w
Ministry of Justice 152–3w
Northern Ireland Office 388w

Official residences
Cabinet Office 324w
Dept for Work and Pensions 1060w
Home Office 802–3w
Ministers 449–50w, 588–9w, 1009–10w

Official secrets
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 111w

Official visits
Cabinet Office 589w
Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 1223w
Dept for Communities and Local Government 695w
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 317–8w, 543–4w
Dept for International Development 819w
Dept for Transport 1378–9w
Gatwick Airport 493–4w
Heathrow Airport 493–4w
Indonesia 860w
Ministry of Defence 711w
Ministry of Justice 672w
Office of the Secretary of State for Wales 816w

Oikos Storage
Canvey Island 45–6w, 624w

Oil
Exploration 251w
Prices 620w

Older workers
Cabinet Office 589w
Dept for Children Schools and Families 405w
Dept for Communities and Local Government 55w
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 138w
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 110w
Dept for Work and Pensions 825w
Dept of Health 737–8w
Foreign and Commonwealth Office 101w
Government Equalities Office 523w
Ministry of Justice 153w
Northern Ireland Office 199w
Scotland Office 957w
Solicitor-General 202w
Training 981w

Olner, Mr Bill
Questions
Voluntary organisations 908–9

Olympic Games
China 13–5, 69–70w, 315w

Olympic Games 2012
20, 920
Big Lottery Fund 1134w
Construction 390w
Culture 4–5
Developing countries 70w
Finance 17–9
Gun sports 19–20
Overseas visitors 70w
Park and ride schemes 215w
Standards 817–8w
Stratford Station 391w
Voluntary work 69w
Young people 818w

Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund
135w

1 Carlton Gardens
99w

Open prisons
374w
Prisoner escapes 672–6w, 870–1w

Opencast mining
Health hazards 251–2w

Opening hours
Casinos 315w
Pharmacy 552w, 758w

Operating costs
Child Support Agency 428–9w
Dept for Children Schools and Families 183w

Opik, Lembit
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 308
Questions
Bus services, Concessions 440–1w
English Partnerships, Vacant land 399w
Home information packs 580w
Land, Dept of Health 737w
Land, Ministry of Defence 709–10w
Land, Prices 232–3w

Opposition days
Post offices (19.03.2008) 946–1048

Orders and regulations
Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 421w

Ordination
Females 1066

Ordnance Survey
973w, 1207w

Organisation for Joint Armament Cooperation
see OCCAR

Organs
Donors 96–7w, 737–8, (19.03.2008) 1051–8

Orphans
Malawi 271–3

Osborne, Mr George
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (13.03.2008) 430–40

Ottaway, Richard
Questions
Coastal areas, Access 397
Prescription drugs, Imports 745, 991w

Overseas aid
501w, 503w
Afghanistan 625w, 925–6w
Africa 819w, 1178w
Burma 625–6w
Chad 819–20w
Cost effectiveness 1181w
Gaza 503w
Kenya 821–2w
Kosovo 1180–1w
Mozambique 822–3w
Palestinians 265–9
Sudan 280, 284–5w, 499w, 626w, 1269–70w

Overseas companies
1227w

Overseas residence
Child benefit 116w, 1213w

Overseas students
1024–5w
Entry clearances 111w, 350w, 360w
Scholarships 22–4ws

Overseas trade
Bermuda 984w
Cyprus 984w
Japan 105w

Overseas visitors
Health services 269–70w
Olympic Games 2012 70w

Overtime
Welfare tax credits 1014–5w

Owen, Albert
Questions
Olympic Games 2012 920

Oxfordshire
Council tax 1196w

Packaging
Carbon emissions 1127w
Newspaper press 407
Prescription drugs 1148w
VAT 538w

Paice, Mr James
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 964, 985–8
Questions
Animal welfare, Finance 414w
Animal Welfare Act 2007 33w
Bluetongue disease, Disease control 402, 940w
Bovine tuberculosis, Disease control 415–6w
BSE, Disease control 35w
General practitioners 739–40w
General practitioners, Rural areas 268w
Home energy efficiency scheme 44w, 705w, 1297w
Natural gas, Distribution 982–3w
Orders and regulations, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 421w
Schools, Rural areas 1157–9w

Pakistan
Diplomatic service 332w
Entry clearances 1187–8w
Immigration 795w

Palestinian-Israeli conflict
see Middle East

Palestinians
Overseas aid 265–9

Palliative care
477–8w, 481w, 670–1w
Barnsley 1007w, 1147w
Cambridgeshire 551w
Castle Point 757–8w
Chorley 478–9w
Eastbourne 479w, 551–2w
Illegal immigrants 338w
Lancashire 479w
North Yorkshire 1007–8w
Norwich 479–80w
Peterborough 480–1w
Shipley 97–8w
Tamworth 1317–8w

Paper
Recycling 225w

Parades
Belfast 733w

Parental contributions
912w

Park and ride schemes
Olympic Games 2012 215w

Parking
Hospitals 1145w
Parliament 1108–9w
Torbay Hospital 553w

Parking offences
Foreigners 690–1w
Unpaid fines 690–1w

Parliament
Information and communications technology 735w
Injuries 733–5w
Parking 1108–9w
Security 397–8w, 733–6w
Visits 396–8w

Parliament Square
Accidents 215w

Parliamentary Press Gallery
3w

Parliamentary scrutiny
EC law 1080–1
Legislation 74ws
Public appointments 324w

Parliamentary Visitor and Information Centre
see Cromwell Green Entrance

Part-time employment
Pupils 901w

Passenger ships
691w, 952–3w

Passengers
Great Western Trains 769w

Passport and Identity Service
see Identity and Passport Service

Passports
410w

Paterson, Mr Owen
Questions
Wind power 624–5w

Patient choice schemes
273w, 1318w

Patients
Religious practice 1000–1w

Pay
Armed forces 65–6ws, 458w, 708–10w
Councillors 695w
Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 25–7w
Dept for Communities and Local Government 1365–7w
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 138w, 1151–2w
Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 220–1w
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 844–6w, 1018w
Dept for Transport 210–1w
Foreign and Commonwealth Office 492w
Local government 1205w
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation 1211–2w

***Pay**—continued*
Ministry of Justice 627w, 1326–8w
Prison Service 375w
Public sector 125w
Regional development agencies 29–32w
Revenue and Customs 534w, 893w
Teachers 606–7

Peace negotiations
Middle East 1269w
Nigeria 645–6w
Sudan 107w, 863w
Uganda 647–8w, 1188–9w

Peacekeeping operations
Afghanistan 10w, 293–4w, 450w, 648w, 656–7w, 662w, 711–4w, 808w, 811–2w, 1034w, 1042–3w, 1169–72w, 1307w
Balkans 295w
Central Africa 291w
Iraq 14w, 293–4w, 656–62w, 711–4w, 811–2w, 916, 1042w, 1169–72w, 1186w, 1306–7w
Somalia 333w
Sudan 107–8w, 334–5w, 500w, 1031–2w

***Pearson, Ian**, Minister of State, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills*
Westminster Hall Debates
Window blinds, Safety (12.03.2008) 103–5wh
Questions
Physics, Research 853w
Rutherford Appleton Laboratory 675–6w

Pembury Hospital
748–9, 991w

Penning, Mike
Chamber Debates
Members, Points of order (13.03.2008) 429
Questions
Ambulance services, Hertfordshire 740w
Business questions 416–7
Debts 361–2w
Dental services 742–3
Dietary supplements, EC law 997–8w, 1310–1w
Incontinence, Medical equipment 669w
Iraq, Peacekeeping operations 294w
Nutrition 1006w
Personal medical services 269w
Welfare tax credits, Foreigners 372w
Welfare tax credits, Fraud 372w
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust 760–4w
Written questions, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 1223–4w
Written questions, Dept for Communities and Local Government 228w
Written questions, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 419w
Written questions, Dept of Health 1001w
Written questions, Ministry of Defence 458w
Written questions, Ministry of Justice 629w
Written questions, Northern Ireland Office 388–9w
Written questions, Office of the Secretary of State for Wales 6w
Written questions, Prime Minister 1009w
Written questions, Scotland Office 1w
Written questions, Treasury 533w

Penrose, John
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 996
Questions
Drugs, Rehabilitation 732–3

Pension credit
431w, 1064w
Bexley 207w
Widowed people 208w

Pension Protection Fund
Northern Ireland 1401w

Pension Protection Fund (Pension Compensation Cap) Order 2008
Chamber Debates
(18.03.2008) 895

Pension Service
Telephone services 207w

Pensioners
1063–5w, 1399–400w
Carer's allowance 739–40w
Cost of living 369–70w
Council tax 778w
Greater London 830–1w
Income 830–1w
Poverty 831w

Pensions
Armed forces 18ws, 458w
Cabinet Office 589w
Dept for Communities and Local Government 1367w
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 544w
Dept for Transport 1112–3w
Dept for Work and Pensions 1060w
Leader of the House of Commons 523w
Local government 779–80w
Office of the Secretary of State for Wales 816w
Prime Minister 539w
Scotland Office 1110w
Taxation 1218–9w
Treasury 718w

Pensions Education Fund
433–4w

Performing arts
1052w
Young people 1362–4w

Personal Accounts Delivery Authority
831w

Personal care services
Industrial health and safety 832w

Personal medical services
269w

Personal records
Borders 344w
Graduates 598w
Pupils 914w

Personal savings
719w
Tax allowances 128w

Personation
344–8w

Peterborough
Archaeology 540w
Bus services 945–6w
Childbirth 95w
Chronically sick 261w
Harassment 782w
Palliative care 480–1w
Pharmacy 552w
Roads 529w

Petitions
Bone diseases 7–8p
Byng, John (19.03.2008) 1050
Clatterbridge Hospital (19.03.2008) 1049
Climate change (19.03.2008) 1049–50
Planning (10.03.2008) 118
Post offices 1–6p, (12.03.2008) 382, (17.03.2008) 717
Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup 11–2p

***Petitions**—continued*
Roads (18.03.2008) 896
Sudan 5p, 9–10p
Wirral Hospital (17.03.2008) 718

Petrol
Prices 1227w

Pharmacy
Opening hours 552w, 758w
Peterborough 552w

Physical education
Teachers 1425–8w

Physics
Research 853w

Pickles, Mr Eric
Questions
Admiralty House 590–1w, 1087w, 1181–2w
Bellwin scheme 694w
Buildings, Cabinet Office 863w
Bus services, Concessions 1376w
Casinos, Cash dispensing 541w
Cemeteries 1194w
CMPi, Dept for Communities and Local Government 957w
Cole Layer Trumble, Treasury 1213w
Community centres, Valuation 958w
Community development 974w
Council housing, Overcrowding 579w
Council housing, Waiting lists 1194–5w
Council tax, Appeals 777w, 1213–4w
Council tax, Armed forces 809w
Council tax, Pensioners 778w
Council tax, Tax rates and bands 960w, 1195–6w
Council tax, Valuation 717w, 721w, 895w, 960w, 1196w, 1214–5w
Council tax, Wales 1325w
Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rating (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006 777w
Councillors, Pay 695w
Crime prevention 1245w
Domestic waste, Waste disposal 1123–4w, 1132w
Eco-towns 1197w
Elections, Information and communications technology 1085–6w 729w
Electoral register, Databases 1086–7w
Electronic voting 1109w
Embassies, Waste disposal 642w
Emergencies, Planning 977w
Empty property 1197–8w
Fly tipping 1124w
Homes and Communities Agency 1200w
Households, Surveys 1215–6w
Housing, Armed forces 964–5w
Housing, Construction 968w
Housing, Demolition 967w
Housing, Energy 964w
Housing, Finance 400w
Housing, Low incomes 580–1w
Housing, Standards 967w
Housing, Valuation 895w
Housing and planning delivery grant 971–2w
INTERREG programme 1193w, 1202–3w
Ipsos MORI, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 1226w
Ipsos MORI, Dept for Communities and Local Government 968w
Ipsos MORI, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 681w
Ipsos MORI, Dept for Transport 1385–6w

***Pickles, Mr Eric**—continued*
Ipsos MORI, Electoral Commission 729w
Ipsos MORI, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 1186w
Ipsos MORI, Leader of the House of Commons 925w
Ipsos MORI, Ministry of Defence 811w
Ipsos MORI, Office of the Secretary of State for Wales 817w
Ipsos MORI, Regional development agencies 617w
Ipsos MORI, Regional government 778–9w
Ipsos MORI, Scotland Office 1110w
Itis Holdings, Dept for Transport 949–52w
Landfill tax 1204w
Licensed premises, Planning 1203w
Liverpool City Council, Standards 699w
Local area agreements, Standards 1374w
Local authority business growth incentives scheme 970–1w
Local government, Codes of practice 1204w
Local government, Pay 1205w
Local government, Public participation 693–4w, 700w
Local government, Standards 401–2w, 701w, 780–1w
Local government finance 971w
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation, Public appointments 1206w
Maps, EC law 972w
Meat, Waste disposal 562w
Ministers, Official residences 449–50w, 588–9w
Mortgages 888w
Non-domestic rates, Licensed premises 1212w
Non-domestic rates, Public lavatories 583–4w
Non-domestic rates, Valuation 973w, 1207w
Official residences, Home Office 802–3w
1 Carlton Gardens 99w
Planning 1207–8w
Planning obligations 977w
Planning permission, Cabinet Office 865w
Planning permission, Treasury 719w
Plastic bags, Cabinet Office 865w
Plastic bags, Dept for Communities and Local Government 701w
Plastic bags, Deputy Prime Minister 865w
Prisons, Construction 584–5w
Prisons, Travelling people 875–6w
Prisons, Waste disposal 1133w
Property, Valuation 894w
Public lavatories 782w, 1208w
Pupils, Personal records 914w
Radio frequency identification, Privacy 880w
Regional European offices 974–5w
Regional European offices, Finance 1228w
Regional resilience forums, Finance 975w
Rights of way 944w
Roads, Lighting 955–6w
Second homes, Planning permission 974w
Squatting 976w
Stamp duty land tax 1218w
Standards Board for England, Information officers 1375w
10 Downing Street, Repairs and maintenance 1303w
Tenant Services Authority 700–1w
Tolls 1219–20w, 1388–9w

***Pickles, Mr Eric**—continued*
Urban areas, Trees 1197w
Valuation Office, Cole Layer Trumble 1220w
Valuation Office, Industrial disputes 721w
Valuation Office, Information and communications technology 1220–1w
Valuation Office, Publications 1212w
Valuation Office, Rightmove 1221w
Waste disposal, Fees and charges 556–62w, 1123–4w, 1131–2w
Waste management 732w
Water charges 733w, 1299w
Working Neighbourhoods Fund 977w

Pigs
405

Pirbright
Foot and mouth disease 282–3

Plagiarism
Students 921–2w

Planning
1207–8w
EC law 1208w
Emergencies 977w
Licensed premises 1203w
Petitions (10.03.2008) 118
Recreation spaces 1208–9w

Planning Inspectorate
1213w

Planning obligations
977w
Greater London 974w

Planning permission
1–2ws
Cabinet Office 865w
Casinos 235w
Microgeneration 20–1ws
Playing fields 682–3w, 1053–4w
Second homes 974w
Treasury 719w

Plants
Cabinet Office 324w
Dept for Children Schools and Families 593w
Dept for Communities and Local Government 695–6w
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 138w
Dept for International Development 504w
Dept for Transport 211w
Foreign and Commonwealth Office 101w
Home Office 787–8w
Ministry of Justice 627–8w
Office of the Secretary of State for Wales 5w
Scotland Office 525w

***Plaskitt, James**, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Dept for Work and Pensions*
Questions
Child Support Agency, Compensation 424–6w
Child Support Agency, Complaints 426–8w
Child Support Agency, Information and communications technology 1391w
Child Support Agency, Manpower 1058w
Child Support Agency, Operating costs 428–9w
Children, Maintenance 422–4w, 429–32w, 565–9w, 1057–8w, 1389–92w
Council tax benefits 1393w
Disciplinary proceedings, Dept for Work and Pensions 1399w
Employment, Low incomes 435–6w

***Plaskitt, James**,—continued*
Homelessness, Departmental coordination 431w
Housing benefit 205–6w, 431w, 1062w
Housing benefit, Glossop 1395w
Income support, Lone parents 1396w
Income support, Polygamy 432w
Jobcentre Plus, Data protection 437–8w
Jobseeker's allowance 571–3w, 1398w
Jobseeker's allowance, Disqualification 432–3w
Members, Correspondence 1398–9w
Social Fund 1401–2w
Social security benefits 437w, 577w, 1403w
Social security benefits, Fraud 436–7w, 577w, 1402w
Social security benefits, Post office card account 1403w
Social security benefits, South East 436w

Plastic bags
404
Cabinet Office 865w
Dept for Communities and Local Government 701w
Deputy Prime Minister 865w
House of Commons 199w
Landfill 1298w

Plastic surgery
1319w

Plastics
Waste disposal 1131w

Playgrounds
Expenditure 144–5w

Playing fields
7ws, 1052–3w
Planning permission 682–3w, 1053–4w
Schools 1364w

Plutonium
Sellafield 987–8w

Poaching
507–8w

Police
Airports 609–10w
Borders 783w
Finance 610w, 1259–60w
House of Commons 1107w
Information and communications technology 350–1w
Interpreters 76w
Political impartiality 77w
Recruitment 77w
Somalia 333–4w
Stun guns 60–1ws
Surveillance 935–6w

Police custody
157w, 379w, 871w
Death 803w
Deportation 791–2w
Staffordshire 871w

Political activities
Charities 323w

Political impartiality
Armed forces 664w
Dept for Work and Pensions 832w
Police 77w

Political parties
Expenditure 377w
Finance 276, 729–30w, 922, 1281–2w

Political refugees
see Asylum

Politics and government
Afghanistan 1034w
Cyprus 639w, 1183w

***Politics and government**—continued*
Females 1073–4
Indonesia 860–1w
Iran 642w
Kenya 332w, 494–5w
Middle East 495w
Nepal 495–6w, 505–6w
Public participation 373w
Russia 861w
Students 112w
Sudan 285w
Tibet 915
Zimbabwe 336w

Pollution
Ground water 731–2w

Pollution control
Air pollution 8–9ws, 943–4w
Coal 246w
Noise 225–6w

Polygamy
805–6w
Income support 432w

Population
125–6w
Wirral 122–3w

Ports
Waste disposal 691–2w

Post office card account
Social security benefits 1403w

Post offices
838–9w, 1227–8w, 1291w
Carnforth 29w
Clapham (13.03.2008) 506–12
Closures 28–9w, 252w, 488–90w, 920–1, 923
Expenditure 621w
Greater London 489w
Highlands of Scotland (18.03.2008) 214–22wh
Lancashire 1228w
North Yorkshire 29–30w
Opposition days (19.03.2008) 946–1048
Petitions 1–6p, (12.03.2008) 382, (17.03.2008) 717
Rural areas 1291–2w
Yorkshire and the Humber 490w

Post traumatic stress disorder
Armed forces 1038w

Postal services
1235–7w
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 853w
Revenue and Customs 720w, 891w, 893w

Postal workers
Dogs 1292w

Poultry
Animal welfare 47w

Pound, Mr Stephen
Chamber Debates
Animals Act 1971 (Amendment) Bill, 2R adjourned (14.03.2008) 550–4, 556–7, 559, 561–3, 565, 567, 570, 572–3, 577, 579–82, 584–7
Questions
Coroners 375w

Poverty
Children 274, 434–5w, 605–6, 677–9w, 832w, 912–3, 1135w, 1392w
Disabled (11.03.2008) 1–22wh
Pensioners 831w

Powers of entry
Debt collection 157–8w

Pregnancy
Streptococcus 748, 1323–4w

Pregnant women
Drugs 255w, 548–9w, 671–2w

***Prentice, Bridget,** Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice*
Questions
Cemeteries 142–3, 1189–90w
Constituencies 150w
Coroners 375w
Coroners, Armed forces 73w, 151w, 373–4w
Counter-Terrorism Bill 2007–08 73–4w
Courts, Disclosure of information 139
Elections, Fraud 155w
Elections, Information and communications technology 1085–6w
Electoral register, Databases 1086–7w
Employment Tribunals Service, Internet 155w
Employment Tribunals Service, Learning disability 1193w
Family courts 146
Magistrates, Recruitment 372w
Older workers, Ministry of Justice 153w
Pay, Ministry of Justice 1326–8w
Resomation 1357w
Tribunals, Ministry of Justice 521–2w
War pensions, Appeals 375w

Prentice, Mr Gordon
Chamber Debates
Commonwealth (20.03.2008) 1105
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 1007, 1022–3
Questions
Accident and emergency departments 736w
Agriculture, Waste 1294w
Business questions 420–1, 1092
Dangerous driving, Reoffenders 869w
Developing countries, Food 283–4w
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Data protection 443–4w
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Databases 211–3w
Electoral register 1064
Environmental health, Catering 265–6w
Government departments, Data protection 1302w
Harassment, Prosecutions 879w
Immigration, Pakistan 795w
Income support, Polygamy 432w
Post offices, Closures 29w
Railways, Freight 1387w
Vetting 413w

Pre-school education
402–3w
Enfield 1074w

Prescription drugs
Consumer information 1318w
Imports 745, 991w
Packaging 1148w

Press
Advertising 985w
Scotland Office 1110–1w

Press freedom
China 69–70w

Preston
Welfare tax credits 368w

Price, Adam
Questions
Computer software, Dept for Work and Pensions 430w
Databases, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 416w
Databases, Dept for Transport 768–9w
Databases, Dept of Health 468w

***Price, Adam**—continued*
Databases, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 640w
Databases, Treasury 717–8w
National Lottery Distribution Fund 135w
Public expenditure 126w
Social security benefits, Data protection 1065w

Prices
Energy 247w
Firearms 1250–1w
Land 232–3w
Oil 620w
Petrol 1227w

***Primarolo, Rt Hon Dawn,** Minister of State, Dept of Health*
Chamber Debates
Organs, Donors (19.03.2008) 1056–8
Questions
Abortion 254w, 993w
Abortion, Maternal mortality 1308w
Alcoholic drinks, Misuse 79–80w, 465–6w, 546–7w, 993–5w, 1137w
Alcoholic drinks, Young people 80w
Antidepressants 270–1w, 670w
Arthritis, Drugs 1137–8w
Blood, Contamination 256–7w
Blood, Donors 1308–9w
Cancer, Drugs 1138w
Cervical cancer, Staffordshire 547–8w
Chlamydia, Screening 259w, 668w
CJD 255–6w
Clinical trials, Disclosure of information 1309–10w
Clinical trials, Seroxat 992w
Dietary supplements, EC law 997–8w, 1310–1w
Drugs, Misuse 549w, 1139w
Drugs, Rehabilitation 732–4, 1275–6w
Drugs, Side effects 1147–8w
Environmental health, Catering 265–6w
Foetal alcohol syndrome 1311w
Food, Labelling 267w
General practitioners 739–40w
Genetically modified organisms, Labelling 268w
Genetics, Insurance 84w
Genito-urinary medicine, Finance 1320–2w
Genito-urinary medicine, Waiting lists 1311w
Gonorrhoea, Drugs 1319–20w
Hay fever 1139w
Headaches 1139–40w
Health, Regional European offices 482w
Health services, Children 990w
Health services, Disadvantaged 1001–2w, 1312–3w
Health services, EC nationals 91–2w
Health services, Overseas visitors 269–70w
Hepatitis, Health education 1313–4w
HIV infection, Morecambe 1314w
In vitro fertilisation 1314–5w
Incontinence, Medical equipment 669w, 1002w
Influenza 1002–3w
Injuries, Children 1003w
Injuries, Rugby 1003w
Liver diseases, Lancashire 93–4w
Low alcohol drinks, Wines 680–1w
Macular degeneration, Drugs 270w
Macular degeneration, Moorfields Eye Hospital 1004w
Macular degeneration, Smoking 550w
Malnutrition 552w, 1319w
Marie Stopes International, Finance 1315w

***Primarolo, Rt Hon Dawn,**—continued*
Meat Hygiene Service 472–3w
Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency, Standards 473–4w
Methadone 271w
MMR vaccine 1005w
NHS, Drugs 1006w
NHS, Fraud 1006w
Nutrition 1006w
Nutrition, Children 273w, 995w
Obesity, Artificial sweeteners 1007w
Pharmacy, Opening hours 552w, 758w
Pregnancy, Streptococcus 748, 1323–4w
Pregnant women, Drugs 255w, 548–9w, 671–2w
Prescription drugs, Consumer information 1318w
Prescription drugs, Imports 745, 991w
Prescription drugs, Packaging 1148w
Prostate cancer 276w, 278w
Pulmonary arterial hypertension, Drugs 1145–6w
Pulmonary arterial hypertension, Medical treatments 471w
Salt 223w, 992w
Sex, Young people 1008w
Sexually transmitted diseases 1322–4w
Sexually transmitted diseases, Young people 1009–10w
Skin piercing, Young people 309–10w
Smoking, Health services 279w, 482–4w
Smoking, Public houses 279w
Smoking, Young people 1323w
Tobacco, Young people 1324–5w
Wheelchairs, Safety 484w

Primary education
1073w, 1155w
Admissions 921w
Bournemouth 183–4w, 309w
Lancashire 921w
Literacy 1410–1w
Per capita costs 309w
Rural areas 912–3w
School meals 406w
Standards 184w, 1412–3w
York 185–6w

Prime Minister
Fairtrade initiative 539w
Ministerial policy advisors 449w
Official engagements 273–4, 914
Pensions 539w
Television 1304w
Written questions 1009w

Prisk, Mr Mark
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (18.03.2008) 761, 774, 794, 808–9, 813, 824–8, 848
Questions
Buildings, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 1286–92w
Business, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 218w
Business, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 840w
Empty property, Dept for Communities and Local Government 963w
Empty property, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 1152w
Empty property, Dept for Transport 1377–8w
Empty property, Dept of Health 996w
Empty property, Ministry of Defence 810w
Higher education, Business 1023–4w
Non-domestic rates 1012w
Non-domestic rates, Empty property 696w, 778w, 1198w
Non-domestic rates, Tax allowances 973w

***Prisk, Mr Mark**—continued*
Non-domestic rates, Tax yields 1013w
Ordnance Survey 973w, 1207w
Small businesses 988–90w

Prison accommodation
127–8, 131–3, 374w, 380w, 510–1w
Courts 157w
Shipping 128–9

Prison sentences
378w, 385w, 1327–9w, 1356–7w

Prison Service
Manpower 157w, 1095–9w
Pay 375w
Redundancy 1084w
Retirement 1337–48w

Prisoner escapes
Open prisons 672–6w, 870–1w

Prisoners
158w, 380w, 872w, 1089–94w
Death 633w, 871–2w
Diabetes 1355w
Females 1094–6w
Per capita costs 380w
Repatriation 630w
Self-mutilation 1355w
Suicide 510w
Wales 510w

Prisoners' incentives and earned privileges scheme
509w

Prisoners of war
Compensation 12w

Prisoners on remand
1347–51w

Prisoners' release
137–8, 1351–5w
Employment 509w

Prisons
139–40 (6mc)
Alcoholic drinks 1356w
Buprenorphine 26–8ws
Construction 162w, 375–6w, 584–5w
Discipline 379–80w
Drugs 15–6ws, 49–50ws, 133–5, 470w, 872w, 1099–104w, 1356w
Education 852w, 857w, 1093–4w
Employment 379w
Finance 872–5w
Food 510w
Health services 1140–1w, 1278w
Islam 875–6w, 1095w
Mobile phones 1099–104w
Northern Ireland 1278w
Private sector 630–2w
Travelling people 875–6w
Waste disposal 1133w

Pritchard, Mark
Chamber Debates
Brussels Summit (EC) (17.03.2008) 631
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 961
Questions
Abortion 993w
Afghanistan, Peacekeeping operations 1034w
Bishops, Finance 1067
British nationality 145
Data protection, Ministry of Defence 12w
Departmental responsibilities, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 13
Diplomatic service, Equatorial Guinea 103w
Diplomatic service, Written questions 102w
Internet, Security 1258w

***Pritchard, Mark**—continued*
Marie Stopes International, Finance 1315w
Olympic Games, China 13–4
Opencast mining, Health hazards 251–2w
Teachers, Pay 606–7

Privacy
Radio frequency identification 880w

Private education
GCE AS-level 186w

Private finance initiative
Dept for Children Schools and Families 176w
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 846w
Home Office 341–2w
Ministry of Defence 292w

Private sector
Employment schemes 570w
Health services 742–3w
Prisons 630–2w

Probation
381w
Domestic violence 380–1w
Finance 1103w
Standards 876–7w

Probation officers
878–9w

Proceeds of crime
357w

Profits
Heathrow Airport 769–70w

Proof of identity
Bank services 1216–7w, 1265w
Students 113w

Property
Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 485w
Dept for Communities and Local Government 696w
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 138w
Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 1120–2w
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 110w
Dept for Work and Pensions 825–6w
Dept of Health 738–9w
Foreign and Commonwealth Office 640w
Home Office 788w
Ministry of Defence 1040–1w
Ministry of Justice 506w
Northern Ireland Office 1109w
Scotland Office 957w
South East England Development Agency 839w
Treasury 363–4w
Valuation 894w

Property development
Floods 57w, 229w

Prosecutions
Computer Misuse Act 1990 1223w
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 36w
Data Protection Act 1998 1223w
Domestic violence 1282w
Harassment 879w
Licensing laws 1239–40w, 1260–1w
Rape 1282–3w
UN Convention against Corruption 627w
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 564–6w

Prostate cancer
274–9w, 277
Health education 97w, 276–7w, 482w
Health services 258w

Prostate cancer *—continued*
Lancashire 277–8w, 369w

Prostitution
see also Child prostitution
1261w
Essex 352–6w
Human trafficking 1279w

Protest
AWE Aldermaston 1039w

Public appointments
Arts Council of England 314w, 541w
Committee on the Grant of Honours Decorations and Medals 638w
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 318–20w
Government Equalities Office 4w
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation 586w, 1205–6w
Parliamentary scrutiny 324w
Service Prosecuting Authority 65ws

Public bodies
Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 34w
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 853w
Ministry of Defence 459–60w

Public expenditure
126w, 143, 921
Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 838w
Dept for Children Schools and Families 300–2w, 1072w
Dept for Communities and Local Government 398–9w
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 1045–6w, 1360w
Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 38w, 417w
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 846–8w
Dept for International Development 819–21w
Dept for Transport 443w, 1379w
Foreign and Commonwealth Office 640–1w
Home Office 788–90w
Ministry of Defence 711w
Ministry of Justice 628w
Northern Ireland Office 388w
Office of the Secretary of State for Wales 5–6w
Scotland Office 525–6w
Treasury 117w

Public houses
Smoking 279w

Public lavatories
782w, 1208w
Non-domestic rates 583–4w

Public libraries
1054w
Closures 146w
Cost effectiveness 233w

Public participation
Dept for Communities and Local Government 696w
Dept for Work and Pensions 1060w
Legislation 763–4w, 1278w, 1303w
Local government 693–4w, 700w, 972w
National identity 156w
NHS 96w
Politics and government 373w
Sports 145–6w

Public places
Alcoholic drinks 1273–5w

Public private partnerships
London Underground 918–9

Public relations
Home Office 929–30w

Public sector
Construction 536w
Job creation 888–92w
Pay 125w

Public Services Forum Task Group
866w

Public transport
Antisocial behaviour 772w
Morecambe 446w
Research 954w, 1389w

Publications
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 394w
Dept for International Development 1269w
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency 684–6w
Valuation Office 1212w

Publicity
Minimum wage 27–8w
Social security benefits 1161–2w

Pugh, John
Westminster Hall Debates
Revenue and Customs, Northern Ireland (12.03.2008) 77–9wh, 88wh
Questions
Building schools for the future programme 901w
Health centres 1008w
Packaging, Newspaper press 407
Seroxat, Clinical trials 992w

Pulmonary arterial hypertension
Drugs 1145–6w
Medical treatments 471w

Pupil exclusions
594w, 1155–8w
Alcoholic drinks 1073–5w, 1155–6w
Drugs 1155–6w
Gifted children 181w
Offensive weapons 1155–6w

Pupil referral units
General certificate of secondary education 1413w

Pupils
Absenteeism 1157w
Accidents 187w
Colchester 187w
Derby 1157w
Disadvantaged 917w
Hay fever 913–4w, 1075w
Intimidation 608–9
Part-time employment 901w
Personal records 914w

Purchase, Mr Ken
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 313, 323, 326–31
Questions
Academies, Finance 1404–6w
Social services, Finance 735

Purnell, Rt Hon James, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (13.03.2008) 434, 436–7, 439–48
Written Statements
Health of Britain's Working Age Population Review 50–2ws
New deal schemes 30–2ws

QinetiQ
Property transfer 295w

Qualifications
Headteachers 182w

Qualifications *—continued*
Teachers 195–6w, 854–6w

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre
Standards 67ws

Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup
Petitions 11–2p

Quentin Davies Inquiry
see National Recognition of our Armed Forces Inquiry

Racial discrimination
Sports 1150–1w

Radio frequency identification
Privacy 880w

Radioactive materials
983–4w
Colombia 638w
Research 978w

Radioactive waste
Transport 1111–2w, 1386w
Waste management 252w

RAF Halton
Complaints 813w

Rail Vehicle Accessibility (B2007 Vehicles) Exemption Order 2008
Chamber Debates
(18.03.2008) 895

Railway stations
772w, 1386–7w
Disabled 772–3w, 1115w

Railways
216w, 773w
Accidents 1387w
Biofuels 217w
Construction 770–1w
Crime 773w
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 853w
Fares 773–4w, 1116w
Felixstowe 1115w
Franchises 10w, 74–6ws
Freight 1387w
Greater London 774w, 1116w
Greenwich 216w
Overcrowding 774w
Repairs and maintenance 9w
South East 529w, 774w, 1116w
Standards 954–5w
Sussex 776w

Rammell, Bill, Minister of State, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills
Written Statements
Students, Loans 29–30ws
Questions
Absenteeism, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 109w
Adult education, Finance 596–7w
Apprentices 108w, 253w, 610–1w
Business, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 840w
Business, Higher education 1023–4w
Career development loans 840w
Construction, Training 597w
Consultants, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 841w
Contracts, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 841w
Data protection, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 841w
Degrees, Fraud 1021w
Departmental reorganisation, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 111w
Disclosure of information, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 110w
Education, Prisons 852w, 857w, 1093–4w
Educational institutions, First aid 1018w

Rammell, Bill,—*continued*
Equality, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 842w
Erasmus 1018w
Foundation degrees 598w
Freedom of information, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 842w
Further education, Islam 112w
Graduates, Personal records 598w
Higher education, Admissions 598–600w, 1019–20w
Higher education, Community relations 1019w
Higher education, Developing countries 111–2w
Higher education, Student wastage 1021–2w
Higher education, Teachers 112–3w
Homeworking, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 842w
Impact assessments, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 843w
Industrial health and safety, Training 852w
Information and communications technology, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 109w, 843w
Information officers, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 843w
Kent, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 852w
Labour turnover, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 843–4w
Marketing, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 1017–8w
Official cars, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 598w
Official hospitality, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 844w
Official secrets, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 111w
Older workers, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 110w
Overseas students, Entry clearances 111w
Pay, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 844–6w
Postal services, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 853w
Private finance initiative, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 846w
Property, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 110w
Public bodies, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 853w
Public expenditure, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 846–8w
Railways, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 853w
Secondment, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 847–50w
Sexual harassment, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 853–4w
Shropshire, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 854w
Sick leave, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 849w
Special educational needs, Hearing impaired 108–9w
Students, Bassetlaw 601w
Students, Death 1022w
Students, Finance 113–4w, 1020–1w
Students, Grants 600–1w
Students, Loans 113w, 601w, 1022–3w
Students, Politics and government 112w
Sustainable development, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 849–50w
Tolls, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 857w
Translation services, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 114w, 850–1w

Rammell, Bill,—*continued*
Travel, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 851–2w
Visits abroad, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 851–2w
Vocational education 922w
Vocational training 114–5w, 595w
Young people, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 110w, 857w

Randall, Mr John
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 997–1000, 1002
Questions
Birds of prey, Genetics 33–4w
Business questions 422–3
Government departments, Data protection 914
Nature conservation 1298w

Rape
Convictions 634–5w
Prosecutions 1282–3w
Sentencing 511–22w

Raynsford, Rt Hon Nick
Chamber Debates
London Underground (10.03.2008) 87, 90, 107–9

Reading
Teaching methods 1411–2w

Reading Borough Council Bill 2007–08
Chamber Debates
2R order read (13.03.2008) 391, (20.03.2008) 1063

Recreation spaces
914–6w
Planning 1208–9w

Recruitment
Armed forces 453–4w, 1164–5w
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 139w
Dept for International Development 83w
Dept for Work and Pensions 1394w
Magistrates 372w
NHS 746
Northern Ireland Office 199w
Police 77w
Treasury 533w

Recycling
Finance 562–3w
Paper 225w

Redundancy
Prison Service 1084w

Redwood, Rt Hon John
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (17.03.2008) 653, 659, 669–77, 714, (18.03.2008) 758, 765
Northern Rock, Nationalisation (10.03.2008) 27–8, 37, 40
Questions
Data protection, Medical records 744w
Data protection, Revenue and Customs 1013w

Reed, Mr Andy
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 953, 962, 1007
Questions
Children's centres, Loughborough 299–300w
General practitioners, Working hours 740–1
Hearing impaired, Dept for Transport 1379w
Hearing impaired, Dept of Health 1144w
Hearing impaired, Treasury 1215w

Reed, Mr Andy—*continued*
Sports, Finance 1054–5w
Sports, Voluntary work 912

Reed, Jamie
Questions
Cumbria County Council, Equal pay 960–1w
Flood control, Finance 282
Revenue and Customs, Whitehaven 533–5w, 1217–8w
Voluntary organisations 907–8

Referendums
Treaty of Lisbon 647w

Refrigerators
Waste disposal 1127–8w

Refugees
see Asylum

Regeneration
Casinos 10–1
Coastal areas 1209–10w, 1293w
Newton Aycliffe (11.03.2008) 256–64
Urban areas 924

Regional cultural consortiums
Finance 30w, 146w

Regional development agencies
621w
Complaints 536–8w
Derelict land 621w
Expenditure 1228–30w
Ipsos MORI 617w
Pay 29–32w
Visits abroad 31w

Regional European offices
252–3w, 974–5w
Finance 236w, 1228w
Health 482w

Regional government
Ipsos MORI 778–9w
Select committees 387w

Regional ministers
65w, 236w
Official engagements 65w, 236–7w

Regional planning and development
970w, 975w
North West 68ws
South East 237w
Thames Gateway 585w

Regional resilience forums
Finance 975w

Registration of births deaths marriages and civil partnerships
719–20w

Regulation
Health services 60ws
Internet 75w

Rehabilitation
Drugs 732–4, 1275–6w
Offenders 140–1, 145–6, 158–62w, 313w, 383w

Reid, Mr Alan
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (18.03.2008) 758–9
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 1010–2
Westminster Hall Debates
Post offices, Highlands of Scotland (18.03.2008) 218–9wh

Religion
Education 185–7w

Religious buildings
Bexley 544–5w
Valuation 1206w

Religious practice
Patients 1000–1w

Rendition
106w, 1030–1w
Diego Garcia 1027w, 1184w, 1284w

Renewable energy
253w, 405, 616w, 622–3w, 985–7w

Rennie, Willie
Questions
Bingo, Taxation 134w
Hospices, Finance 669w
Palliative care 670–1w

Reoffenders
383–4w
Dangerous driving 869w
Offences against children 77w

Repatriation
Prisoners 630w

Research
Physics 853w
Public transport 954w, 1389w
Radioactive materials 978w
Veterinary medicine 554w

Research and development tax credit
1266w

Reserve forces
64–5ws
Labour turnover 663–4w

Residential care homes
see Care homes

Resignations
Cabinet Office 1301w
Ministerial policy advisors 98–9w
Teachers 1427–8w

Resomation
1357w

Restaurants
Foreign workers 343–4w

Restraint in Juvenile Secure Settings Review
69–71ws

Restraint techniques
Secure training centres 635w, 1103w

Retail prices index
126w, 369–70w

Retail trade
Alcoholic drinks 142w
Crime 927w, 934w

Retirement
Dept for Communities and Local Government 962w
Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 417–8w
Land Registry 869–70w
Prison Service 1337–48w
Teachers 1428–30w
Valuation Office 721w

Revenue and Customs
Chorley 891–2w
Data protection 1013w
Dundee 126–7w
Fraud 885w
Northern Ireland (12.03.2008) 71–88wh
Pay 534w, 893w
Postal services 720w, 891w, 893w
Reorganisation 892–3w
Training 535w
Whitehaven 533–5w, 1217–8w

Rifkind, Sir Malcolm
Chamber Debates
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 157

***Rifkind, Sir Malcolm**—continued*
Questions
Watford-Brighton railway line 1388w

Rightmove
Valuation Office 1221w

Rights of way
563–4w, 944w

Riordan, Linda
Westminster Hall Debates
Transport, Yorkshire and the Humber (11.03.2008) 24wh
Woodhead railway line (11.03.2008) 63wh
Questions
Bingo 137w

River Lymington
Ferries 410

River Severn
Floods 1299w

RM Condor
16w

Road traffic
East of England 490–1w, 1293w
Lancashire 839w

Road traffic control
774–5w, 955w
M20 772w, 1115w
Motorways 214–5w

Road traffic offences
Traffic lights 446w

Roads
216w
Accidents 217w, 683w, 692w, 776w, 1116–7w, 1387–8w
Bexley 217w
Cheshire 1117w
Lancashire 692w
Lighting 955–6w, 1373–4w
Norfolk (12.03.2008) 106–14wh
Peterborough 529w
Petitions (18.03.2008) 896
Repairs and maintenance 216–7w, 446–7w, 775w
Rural areas 956w
Safety 956w

Robathan, Mr Andrew
Chamber Debates
Animals Act 1971 (Amendment) Bill, 2R adjourned (14.03.2008) 546
Brussels Summit (EC) (17.03.2008) 629
Official Report, Points of order (13.03.2008) 428
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 1040
Questions
Casinos, Regeneration 10
Church of England, Finance 1065
Churches, Bats 1281w
Newts 555w
Topical debates 1082

Robertson, Angus
Chamber Debates
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 172, 216, 219, 226, 239–40, 248
Questions
Colombia, Radioactive materials 638w
Defence, Procurement 457w
Democratic Republic of Congo, International Criminal Court 639w
Egypt, Muslim Brotherhood 492–3w
Kenya, Politics and government 494–5w
Nepal, Politics and government 495–6w, 505–6w
Nigeria, Kidnapping 646–7w
Nigeria, Peace negotiations 645–6w

***Robertson, Angus**—continued*
Sick pay, Dept for Children Schools and Families 405–6w
Sick pay, Dept for Work and Pensions 1394–5w
Sick pay, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 641w
South America, Diplomatic service 106w
South America, Foreign relations 497–8w
Sudan, Armed conflict 498w, 823w
Sudan, Overseas aid 499w
Uganda, Peace negotiations 647–8w

Robertson, Hugh
Questions
Nature conservation 1126w
Olympic Games 2012, Finance 18
Olympic Games 2012, Young people 818w
Sports, Females 9
Sports, Internet 1044w
Sports, Young people 413w
Swimming, National Lottery 321w
Swimming pools 147–8w, 1055–6w

Robertson, John
Chamber Debates
Animals Act 1971 (Amendment) Bill, 2R adjourned (14.03.2008) 524–8, 544–5
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 222
Winter fuel payments (17.03.2008) 719–25, 727
Questions
Big Lottery Fund, Olympic Games 2012 1134w
Business questions 419
Domestic violence, Immigrants 1280w
Domestic violence, Prosecutions 1282w
Nigeria, Corruption 502w
Pupils, Intimidation 608

Robertson, Mr Laurence
Questions
Hazardous substances, Gloucestershire 49w
Horserace Totalisator Board 16–7, 133w

Robinson, Mr Geoffrey
Questions
Greenhouse gas emissions 553–4w

Robinson, Mrs Iris
Questions
Teenage pregnancy 1010–1w
Young people, Sex 1008w
Young people, Sexually transmitted diseases 1009–10w

Rogerson, Daniel
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 986
Westminster Hall Debates
Fire services, Humberside (18.03.2008) 189–92wh
Water charges (18.03.2008) 167wh
Questions
Bail accommodation and support service 130, 377–8w
Bail accommodation and support service, Bodmin 1189w
Open prisons 374w
Sexually transmitted diseases 1322–4w

Rolling stock
692–3w, 775w
Great Western Trains 9w
Southern 9–10w, 529–30w

Romania
450w

***Romania**—continued*
Immigration 349w

Rooney, Mr Terry
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (13.03.2008) 454, 456–9
Westminster Hall Debates
Disabled, Poverty (11.03.2008) 11–4wh, 18wh
Questions
Industrial accidents, Materials handling equipment 18w

Rosindell, Mr Andrew
Chamber Debates
Commonwealth (20.03.2008) 1142–53
Questions
Afghanistan, Peacekeeping operations 1169w
Armed forces, Recruitment 453–4w
British overseas territories, Armed forces 649w
Cancer, Screening 731
Commonwealth, Armed forces 655w
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 36w, 1119w
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, Prosecutions 36w
Dogs 608–9w
Dogs, Registration 40w
Industrial accidents 1396–7w
Iraq, Peacekeeping operations 293w, 656–7w, 662w, 711–3w, 1042w, 1169–70w
Japan, Foreign investment in UK 27w
Japan, Foreign relations 104–5w
Japan, Overseas trade 105w
Kenya, Politics and government 332w
Middle East, Armed conflict 643w
Pakistan, Diplomatic service 332w
Prisoners' release 137
Pupils, Part-time employment 901w
Rendition 1031w
Russia, Politics and government 861w
Social security benefits, South East 436w
Somalia, Armed conflict 333w
Waste management 391–2

Rowen, Paul
Chamber Debates
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 189
Questions
Employment 1061–2w
Fireworks 980w
UN Security Council, Sanctions 108w

***Roy, Mr Frank**, Lord Commissioner of Her Majesty's Treasury*
Chamber Debates
Commonwealth (20.03.2008) 1105

Royal Regiment of Scotland
Labour turnover 1043–4w

Royal visits
Caribbean 99w, 326w, 859w

Ruane, Chris
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 952, 956

***Ruddock, Joan**, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs*
Westminster Hall Debates
Bovine tuberculosis (18.03.2008) 201–5wh
Forestry Commission, Commercial activities (19.03.2008) 282–5wh
Questions
Biodiversity, Finance 420–1w

***Ruddock, Joan,**—continued*
Birds, Conservation 1294w
Birds of prey, Genetics 33–4w
Business resource efficiency and waste programme 51–2w
Domestic waste, Waste disposal 222w, 421–2w, 1123–4w, 1132w
Energy, EC law 41–2w, 1129–30w
Enviros Consulting, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 702w
Fly tipping 1124w
Game, Birds 1294w
Hazardous substances, Gloucestershire 49w
Heating, EC law 44w
Land use, Upchurch 1298w
Landfill tax 732w
Meat, Waste disposal 562w
Nature conservation 71–2w, 1126w, 1298w
Newts 555w
Packaging, Carbon emissions 1127w
Packaging, Newspaper press 407
Paper, Recycling 225w
Plastic bags 404
Plastic bags, Landfill 1298w
Plastics, Waste disposal 1131w
Recycling, Finance 562–3w
Refrigerators, Waste disposal 1127–8w
River Lymington, Ferries 410
Sites of special scientific interest, Standards 554w
Special areas of conservation 48w
Street cleaning 706w
Trapping 49w, 1130w
Waste and Resources Action Programme 555w
Waste and Resources Action Programme, Finance 1130w
Waste disposal, Crown lands and estates 41w
Waste disposal, Fees and charges 40w, 49–50w, 222w, 555–62w, 1123–4w, 1131–2w
Waste disposal, Prisons 1133w
Waste disposal, Scotland 40–1w
Waste management 391–2, 732w
Waste management, Finance 50–1w
Waste management, Standards 1133w
Wetlands, Conservation 554w
Wildlife, Smuggling 1299w
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Prosecutions 564–6w

Ruffley, Mr David
Westminster Hall Debates
Community policing (19.03.2008) 226wh, 233wh, 241–3wh
Questions
Antisocial behaviour 1081–2w
Further education, East of England 178–80w
Young people, Unemployment 197–8w

Rugby
Injuries 1003w

Rural areas
Bus services 441w
Community centres 227w
Crime 928w
Disadvantaged 905–7
General practitioners 268w, 747–8
Health centres 743–4
Housing 778w
Post offices 1291–2w
Primary education 912–3w
Roads 956w
Schools 1157–9w
Specialised diplomas 1423w

***Rural areas**—continued*
Tourism 17

Russell, Bob
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (13.03.2008) 450, (17.03.2008) 701, 713
Questions
Alderman Blaxill School Colchester 603
Armed forces, Uniforms 279–80, 1042–3w
Bank services, Liechtenstein 883w
Bank services, Proof of identity 1216–7w
Community relations, Bingo 1194w
Debt collection, Standards 54w
Folk culture 16
Government departments, Drinking water 701–2w
Listed buildings 7–8
Prescription drugs, Packaging 1148w
Pupils, Accidents 187w
Television, Licensing 1056w

Russell, Ms Christine
Questions
Sure start programme, Finance 916–7

Russia
Diplomatic service 69ws
Politics and government 861w

Rutherford Appleton Laboratory
675–6w

Ryan, Ms Joan
Questions
Autism 467w
Citizenship, Curriculum 923–4w
Pre-school education, Enfield 1074w
Youth services, Enfield 595w

S4C
12–5

Safety measures
Boilers 205w, 399–400w

Salt
223w, 992w

Salter, Mr Martin
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 950, 982, 1006–10
Questions
Angling 940w
Winter fuel payments 833–4w

Sanctions
Burma 637w
Iran 1028w
Sudan 1284–5w
UN Security Council 108w
Zimbabwe 336w

Sanders, Mr Adrian
Questions
Cancer, Waiting lists 82–3w
Culture, Olympic Games 2012 4–5
Dental services, Torbay 263–4w
Hospitals, Waiting lists 743w
Macular degeneration, Drugs 270w
NHS, Finance 744–5w
Patient choice schemes 273w
Torbay Hospital, Parking 553w
Torbay Hospital, Waiting lists 759–60w

Sarwar, Mr Mohammad
Questions
Namibia, Floods 823w
South America, Foreign relations 1030w
Students, Plagiarism 921–2w
Uganda, Armed conflict 1032w

Saudi Arabia
1188w

Scholarships
Overseas students 22–4ws

School leaving
33–6ws, 908w

School meals
Primary education 406w

Schools
187w
Admissions 3–7ws, 39–40ws, 613–4, 616, 900w, 916–7w, 1413–4w
Buildings 1414w
Capital investment 188w
Closures 597–9, 1415–6w
Crimes of violence 194w, 615
East Midlands 900w
Expenditure 917–8w
Fire prevention 1417w
Greater London 177w
Innovation 189w
Inspections 609–10
Lincolnshire 918w
Milton Keynes 599–600
Offensive weapons 919w
Playing fields 1364w
Rural areas 1157–9w
Sports 133–4w, 904w, 1075–6w, 1361–2w, 1364w, 1423–4w
Standards 600–3, 899–900w
Sustainable development 919–21w
Transport 184w, 189–92w, 766–7w, 1076–9w
Uniforms 371w
Wales 1326w

Science
Teachers 614–5

Scotland
Local income tax 887–8w
Waste disposal 40–1w

Scotland Office
Correspondence 525w
Discrimination 957w
Eurostar 526w
Impact assessments 1110w
Ipsos MORI 1110w
Official engagements 2–3w
Older workers 957w
Pensions 1110w
Plants 525w
Press 1110–1w
Property 957w
Public expenditure 525–6w
Television 1265w
Travel 526w
Written questions 1w

Scott, Lee
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 996, 999
Questions
Africa, Foreign exchange 280–2w

SeaFrance
Industrial disputes 776w

Seas and oceans
Environment protection 47w, 725–6w

Second homes
Council tax 694–5w
Planning permission 974w

Secondary education
Admissions 192w, 610–1, 921w, 1417–8w
Children in care 921w
Curriculum 1418–9w
Greater London 919w, 1079w
Lancashire 921w
Manpower 1418w
Standards 1419w

Secondment
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 847–50w

Secure training centres
Restraint techniques 635w, 1103w

Secured loans
488w

Security
Aviation 683–4w
Hazardous substances 680w
Internet 864w, 1258w
Liverpool Airport 356w
Ministry of Defence 292–3w
Parliament 397–8w, 733–6w

Seeds
Registration 1128w

Select committees
Regional government 387w
Standing orders (11.03.2008) 255

Self-assessment
Taxation 370w, 534w, 1216w

Self-mutilation
552–3w
Counselling 749–50
Prisoners 1355w

Sellafield
Plutonium 987–8w

Selous, Andrew
Questions
Children, Maintenance 1057w
Developing countries, Trade 502w
Food supply 562w
Housing benefit 205–6w
Industrial accidents 205w

Sentencing
142
Crimes of violence 373w
Domestic violence 385–6w
Rape 511–22w

Serbia
EC enlargement 1284w
Human rights 497w

Serious Organised Crime Agency
357w

Seroxat
Clinical trials 992w

Service Prosecuting Authority
Public appointments 65ws

Seven minutes rule
Rulings and statements (19.03.2008) 1010

Sewage
Water treatment 48w

Sewers
48–9w

Sex
Health education 911–2w
Young people 1008w

Sexual harassment
Dept for Children Schools and Families 594w
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 853–4w
Home Office 358w

Sexual offences
Crime prevention 1262w
Gloucestershire 1264w
Northern Ireland 199–200w, 389–90w
Registration 1262w, 1264w
Victim support schemes 1263w

Sexually transmitted diseases
1322–4w

Sexually transmitted diseases*—*continued
Young people 1009–10w

Shapps, Grant
Questions
Domestic waste, Waste disposal 228w
Housing, Building alterations 61w
Housing, Low incomes 401w
Housing, Standards 58w
Housing and planning delivery grant 62w
Working Neighbourhoods Fund 586–7w

Sharks
Conservation 1128–9w

***Shaw, Jonathan,** Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and Minister for the South East, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs*
Chamber Debates
Animals Act 1971 (Amendment) Bill, 2R adjourned (14.03.2008) 516, 524, 536–47, 550
Written Statements
Air pollution, Pollution control 8–9ws
EU Agriculture and Fisheries Council 56ws
Questions
Advertising, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 36–7w
Aggregates, Exports 942w
Agriculture, Co-operative Movement 1127w
Agriculture, Subsidies 31w
Air pollution, East of England 730–2w
Air pollution, Pollution control 943–4w
Air pollution, West Midlands 938–9w
Angling 219w, 939–40w
Animal welfare 1117–8w
Animal welfare, Finance 414w
Animal Welfare Act 2007 33w
Bees, Diseases 217–8w
Bluetongue disease 414–5w
Bluetongue disease, Disease control 940w, 1119w
Bluetongue disease, Vaccination 414–5w, 1118w
Bovine tuberculosis, Disease control 415–6w
British Waterways Board, Finance 34–5w
BSE, Disease control 35w
Business, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 218w
Cattle, Animal welfare 408–9, 730w, 1119w
Coastal areas, Access 396–7
Common fisheries policy 35–6w
Cost effectiveness, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 219w
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 36w, 1119w
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, Prosecutions 36w
Databases, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 416w
Disciplinary proceedings, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 37w
Dogs, Electric shock equipment 941w
Dogs, Licensing 941w
Dogs, Noise 941–2w
Dogs, Registration 40w
Dolphins, Moray Firth 1123w
Dredging 942w
Environment protection, Fixed penalties 42w
Environment protection, Seas and oceans 47w
Environmental stewardship scheme 420w
Equality, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 1119–20w
Fisheries, Inspections 42w, 703–4w
Fisheries, Protection 222w

Shaw, Jonathan,—continued
Fisheries, Quotas 42–3w
Fisheries, Subsidies 42w, 703w
Foot and mouth disease, Disease control 943w
Homeworking, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 219–20w
Horses, Exports 223w
Incinerators 46–7w
Jellyfish 1125–6w
Livestock, Waste disposal 562w
Low alcohol drinks, Wines 491w, 939w
Marine and Fisheries Agency, Manpower 45–6w
Noise, Pollution control 225–6w
Official hospitality, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 37–8w
Orders and regulations, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 421w
Pay, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 220–1w
Poultry, Animal welfare 47w
Property, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 1120–2w
Public bodies, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 34w
Public expenditure, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 38w, 417w
Recreation spaces, Planning 1208–9w
Retirement, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 417–8w
Rights of way 563–4w, 944w
Seeds, Registration 1128w
Sharks, Conservation 1128–9w
Sick leave, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 418w
Temporary employment, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 418w
Travel, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 39–40w
Vegetarianism 226w
Veterinary medicine, Research 554w
Waste disposal, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 221w
Whales, Conservation 408, 706–7w
White fish 706w
Written questions, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 419w
Written questions, Government responses 418–9w
York, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 38–9w
Young people, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 37w

Sheerman, Mr Barry
Chamber Debates
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 167, 182, 185, 201, 203, 206, 228–31
Questions
Culture, Education 133w
Pensioners, Carer's allowance 739–40w
Schools, Standards 601
Waste management 392

Shepherd, Mr Richard
Chamber Debates
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 179, 211–5
Questions
EC internal trade 1224–5w

Sheridan, Mr Jim
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 329
Questions
Business questions 420, 1091–2

Sheridan, Mr Jim—continued
Prostitution, Human trafficking 1279w
Voluntary organisations, Finance 1134w

Shipley
Chronically sick 95–6w
Palliative care 97–8w

Shipping
Prison accommodation 128–9
Safety 1388w

Shoplifting
Cleveland 358w

Shoreham
Transport 31w

Shrewsbury
Armed forces 1037w
Housing 1201–2w

Shropshire
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 854w
Home Office 358–9w

Sick leave
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 319w
Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 418w
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 849w
Dept for International Development 821w
Dept for Work and Pensions 1159–60w
Jobcentre Plus 1159–60w
Teachers 196w

Sick pay
Dept for Children Schools and Families 405–6w
Dept for Work and Pensions 1394–5w
Foreign and Commonwealth Office 641w

Side effects
Drugs 1147–8w

Sight impaired
Digital broadcasting 1360–1w

Simmonds, Mr Mark
Questions
Cardiovascular system, Screening 258–9w
General practitioners, Working hours 741
Genetics, Insurance 84w
Health services, Voluntary organisations 669w
NHS, Finance 1140w
Palliative care 477–8w, 481w

Simon, Mr Sion
Questions
Community orders 135–6

Simpson, Mr Alan
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (17.03.2008) 643–4, 651–7
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 1012

Simpson, David
Westminster Hall Debates
Revenue and Customs, Northern Ireland (12.03.2008) 76wh, 85wh
Questions
Corporate hospitality, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 1017w
Health professions, Manpower 84–92w
Health services 998–1000w
Homeworking, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 485w
Homeworking, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 219–20w

Simpson, David—continued
Homeworking, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 842w
Homeworking, Dept for Work and Pensions 1059w
Homeworking, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 326w
Homeworking, Solicitor-General 201–2w
Methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus, Death 94–5w
Official visits, Cabinet Office 589w
Official visits, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 1223w
Official visits, Dept for Communities and Local Government 695w
Official visits, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 543–4w
Official visits, Dept for International Development 819w
Official visits, Dept for Transport 1378–9w
Official visits, Ministry of Defence 711w
Official visits, Ministry of Justice 672w
Official visits, Office of the Secretary of State for Wales 816w
Older workers, Cabinet Office 589w
Older workers, Dept for Children Schools and Families 405w
Older workers, Dept for Communities and Local Government 55w
Older workers, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 138w
Older workers, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 110w
Older workers, Dept for Work and Pensions 825w
Older workers, Dept of Health 737–8w
Older workers, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 101w
Older workers, Government Equalities Office 523w
Older workers, Ministry of Justice 153w
Older workers, Northern Ireland Office 199w
Older workers, Scotland Office 957w
Older workers, Solicitor-General 202w
Older workers, Training 981w
Pensions, Cabinet Office 589w
Pensions, Dept for Communities and Local Government 1367w
Pensions, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 544w
Pensions, Dept for Transport 1112–3w
Pensions, Dept for Work and Pensions 1060w
Pensions, Leader of the House of Commons 523w
Pensions, Office of the Secretary of State for Wales 816w
Pensions, Prime Minister 539w
Pensions, Scotland Office 1110w
Pensions, Treasury 718w
Pupil exclusions 1155–8w
Pupil exclusions, Alcoholic drinks 1155–6w
Pupil exclusions, Offensive weapons 1155–6w
Sexual offences, Northern Ireland 389–90w

Simpson, Mr Keith
Chamber Debates
Commonwealth (20.03.2008) 1102–9, 1113, 1124
Westminster Hall Debates
Roads, Norfolk (12.03.2008) 110wh
Questions
Afghanistan, Detainees 858w
Afghanistan, Peacekeeping operations 1034w

***Simpson, Mr Keith**—continued*
Afghanistan, Politics and government 1134w
Afghanistan, United Nations 858w
Burma, Sanctions 637w
Chad, Overseas aid 819–20w
National security, Dept for Communities and Local Government 63w
Rendition 106w
Somalia, Peacekeeping operations 333w
Somalia, Police 333–4w
Sudan, Arms trade 334w
Sudan, Overseas aid 284–5w
Sudan, Peace negotiations 107w
Sudan, Peacekeeping operations 107–8w, 334–5w
Zimbabwe, EC external relations 335w
Zimbabwe, Elections 335w, 501w
Zimbabwe, Politics and government 336w
Zimbabwe, Sanctions 336w

Singh, Mr Marsha
Questions
Business questions 1093

Single parents
see Lone parents

Sites of special scientific interest
Standards 554w

Skin piercing
Young people 309–10w

Skinner, Mr Dennis
Questions
Business questions 1086–7

Sleep apnoea
Driving 946w

Small businesses
988–90w
Fraud 1071–2

Smith, Rt Hon Andrew
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 321
Westminster Hall Debates
Community policing (19.03.2008) 231–2wh, 244wh
Developing countries, Water (19.03.2008) 259–61wh
Disabled, Poverty (11.03.2008) 2wh
Questions
Great Western Trains, Standards 8w
Jobseeker's allowance 1398w
Planning Inspectorate 1213w
State retirement pensions 1162–3w

Smith, Angela C (Sheffield Hillsborough)
Westminster Hall Debates
Transport, Yorkshire and the Humber (11.03.2008) 25–7wh, 30wh
Woodhead railway line (11.03.2008) 62–6wh

Smith, Geraldine
Chamber Debates
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 154, 172
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 976, 1012–3
Questions
Armed forces, Deployment 1035–6w
Children, Day care 1068–9w
Council tax, Tax collection 1195–6w
Council tax, Tax yields 1196w
Culture, Coastal areas 542–3w
Dental services, Morecambe 737–8w
Disadvantaged, Rural areas 906
Dogs, Noise 941–2w
Drugs, Crime 1191–2w

***Smith, Geraldine**—continued*
Drugs, Misuse 1139w
Extended schools, Morecambe 1067w
Foreign workers, Lancashire 119–20w
General practitioners, Lancashire 756–7w
HIV infection, Morecambe 1314w
Home information packs 1199w
Housing, Morecambe 231w, 1201w
Lancashire Constabulary 804–5w
Lancaster Royal Infirmary 1148–9w
M6, Heysham 952w
Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Manpower 528w
Mental health services, Morecambe 1316w
Mozambique, Overseas aid 822–3w
New businesses, Morecambe 1237–8w
Noise, Pollution control 225–6w
North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust, Standards 1003w
Overseas aid, Cost effectiveness 1181w
Post offices, Closures 29w
Post offices, Lancashire 1228w
Postal services 1235w
Public transport, Morecambe 446w
Regeneration, Coastal areas 1209–10w, 1293w
Road traffic, Lancashire 839w
Roads, Accidents 692w
Smoking, Public houses 279w
Sports, Schools 133–4w
Tax evasion 894w
Temporary employment, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 1224w
Tourism 1056–7w
Tourism, Coastal areas 14, 1057w
VAT, Tax yields 721w
Welfare tax credits, Morecambe 132w
Welfare tax credits, Overpayments 132w
West coast railway line 1389w
Winter fuel payments, Morecambe 834w
Working tax credit, Morecambe 538–9w

***Smith, Rt Hon Jacqui**, Secretary of State for the Home Dept*
Chamber Debates
Ministerial statement intervention (19.03.2008) 930
Written Statements
UK Border Agency 11–2ws
Questions
Accountancy, Home Office 926w
Alcohol disorder zones 1270w
Alcoholic drinks, Crime 1270–4w
Alcoholic drinks, Misuse 70–1w, 1270w
Alcoholic drinks, Public places 1273–5w
Alcoholic drinks, Young people 71w
Cannabis, Misuse 927w
Crime, Computers 357w, 933–4w, 1277w
Crime, Rural areas 928w
Disciplinary proceedings, Home Office 929w
Firearms, Licensing 1276w
Human trafficking, Children 930w
Immigration, Finance 932–3w
Immigration, Gurkhas 930–2w, 1258–9w
National security 410w
Offences against children, Reoffenders 77w
Police, Recruitment 77w
Police, Surveillance 935–6w
Proceeds of crime 357w
Public relations, Home Office 929–30w
Serious Organised Crime Agency 357w
Terrorism 936w
Terrorism, Finance 934w

***Smith, Rt Hon Jacqui,**—continued*
Terrorism, Stop and search 78w

Smith, Mr John
Westminster Hall Debates
Nursing and Midwifery Council (11.03.2008) 47wh
Questions
Armed forces, Post traumatic stress disorder 1038w

Smith, Sir Robert
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 309
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 947

Smoking
Durham 237w
Health services 279w, 482–4w
Macular degeneration 550w
Public houses 279w
Young people 1323w

Smuggling
Drugs 1085–6w
Firearms 893–4w
Tobacco 127w
Wildlife 1299w

Snelgrove, Anne
Chamber Debates
Post offices (12.03.2008) 382
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 964–5, 1037
Questions
Dogs, Electric shock equipment 941w

Soames, Mr Nicholas
Chamber Debates
National security (19.03.2008) 936–7
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 957
Questions
Deportation 791w
Terrorism 677w

Social Fund
1401–2w

Social Housing Register
see Tenant Services Authority

Social security benefits
437w, 577w, 1403w
Data protection 1065w
Expenditure 1402w
Fraud 436–7w, 577w, 1402w
Harrow 577w
Offenders 870w
Post office card account 1403w
Publicity 1161–2w
South East 436w

Social services
748
Elderly 83w, 738–40, 992–3w
Finance 734–6

Society of the Muslim Brothers
see Muslim Brotherhood

Solar power
Heating 623–4w, 989w

Solicitor-General
Cost effectiveness 200w
Drinking water 201w
Homeworking 201–2w
Older workers 202w
Television 203w

Somalia
Armed conflict 333w
Peacekeeping operations 333w
Police 333–4w

Soulsby, Sir Peter
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 1030–1

Soulsby, Sir Peter—continued
Westminster Hall Debates
East Midlands Trains (11.03.2008) 55wh, 61wh

South Africa
Chemical and biological warfare 862w

South America
Diplomatic service 106w
Foreign relations 497–8w, 1026w, 1030w

South Asia
Immigration 359w

South East
Aviation 438–9w
Railways 529w, 774w, 1116w
Regional planning and development 237w
Social security benefits 436w

South East England Development Agency
Property 839w

South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust
Finance 996w

South West
Internal drainage boards 129[illegible]w

Southern
Rolling stock 9–10w, 529–30w

Southworth, Ms Helen
Questions
Children, Protection 919

Speaker
Leave of absence (14.03.2008) 513

Speaker and deputies
Chamber Debates
Amendments and new clauses (19.03.2008) 946
Conduct of proceedings (10.03.2008) 4, 20, 46, 98, (11.03.2008) 131, 138, 160, 180, 190–2, 211, 229, 235, 250, 254, (12.03.2008) 265, 274, 280, 284–5, 298, 356–7, 361, (13.03.2008) 393, 406, 413, 423, 426, (14.03.2008) 513, 527, 553–4, 562–3, 566, 570, 578, 587, (17.03.2008) 605, 613–4, 622, (18.03.2008) 741–2, 852, 896, (19.03.2008) 906, 916, 921, 941, 944, 957, 969, 980, 1013–4, 1036, 1039, (20.03.2008) 1073, 1090, 1094
Deferred divisions (19.03.2008) 984
Disallowed questions (12.03.2008) 269
Orders and regulations motions (18.03.2008) 895
Points of order (11.03.2008) 190, 203, 254, (12.03.2008) 337, (13.03.2008) 416, 428–9, (14.03.2008) 554, (18.03.2008) 751, (19.03.2008) 942, 951
Royal Assent (20.03.2008) 1097
Rulings and statements, Seven minutes rule (19.03.2008) 1010
Rulings and statements, Three minutes rule (19.03.2008) 1027
Rulings and statements, Twelve minutes rule (19.03.2008) 946
Rulings and statements, Unparliamentary expressions (19.03.2008) 942, 949
Westminster Hall Debates
Conduct of proceedings (11.03.2008) 34wh, 51wh, (12.03.2008) 85–6wh, 92wh, 97wh, 109wh, (13.03.2008) 133wh, (18.03.2008) 182wh, (19.03.2008) 230–1wh, 233wh

Special areas of conservation
48w

Special educational needs
19–20ws, 192–3w, 1079w
Hearing impaired 108–9w, 594w

Special educational needs—continued
Textbooks 919

Specialised diplomas
63ws, 615, 1419–23w
Rural areas 1423w

Speed limits
Cameras 776w

Spellar, Rt Hon John
Questions
Cyprus, Military bases 291–2w
Drinking water, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 486w
Drinking water, Dept for Transport 527w
Drinking water, House of Commons 1076–7w
Drinking water, Solicitor-General 201w
Foxley, Gordon 1041–2w
Harassment, Armed forces 782w
Institute of Education, Finance 912w
Motorways, Road traffic control 214–5w
Palestinians, Overseas aid 266
Recruitment, Treasury 533w
S4C 12–3

Spelman, Mrs Caroline
Chamber Debates
Land Use (Garden Protection) Bill, 1R (18.03.2008) 752–4

Spicer, Sir Michael
Questions
Illegal immigrants 72w
Members, Correspondence 349w, 812w

Spink, Bob
Chamber Debates
Brussels Summit (EC) (17.03.2008) 628
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 337, 379
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 164
Hadleigh (10.03.2008) 118
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 978
Westminster Hall Debates
Community policing (19.03.2008) 224wh, 231wh
Disabled, Poverty (11.03.2008) 3wh
Water charges (18.03.2008) 155wh
Questions
Africa, Overseas aid 819w, 1178w
Breast cancer 257w
Canvey Island, Amusement arcades 128w
Canvey Island, Oikos Storage 45–6w, 624w
Chronically sick, Castle Point 737w
Complaints, Treasury 362w
Cost effectiveness, Dept for Communities and Local Government 228w
Cost effectiveness, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 137w
Cost effectiveness, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 219w
Cost effectiveness, Dept for International Development 504w
Cost effectiveness, Dept for Transport 7w
Cost effectiveness, Dept for Work and Pensions 1058–9w
Cost effectiveness, Dept of Health 264–6w
Cost effectiveness, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 100w
Cost effectiveness, Government Equalities Office 1280w
Cost effectiveness, Home Office 784w
Cost effectiveness, Ministry of Justice 1083w
Cost effectiveness, Northern Ireland Office 387–8w

Spink, Bob—continued
Cost effectiveness, Solicitor-General 200w
Cost effectiveness, Treasury 362w
Criminal investigation 793w
EC defence policy 1036–7w
European Commission, Offices 329–30w
Higher education, Admissions 598–9w
Impact assessments, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 485–6w
Impact assessments, Dept for Communities and Local Government 54–5w
Impact assessments, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 1046w
Impact assessments, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 843w
Impact assessments, Dept for Transport 8w
Impact assessments, Dept of Health 468w
Impact assessments, Home Office 785w
Impact assessments, Ministry of Defence 457w
Impact assessments, Northern Ireland Office 388w
Impact assessments, Scotland Office 1110w
Iraq, Asylum 348–9w
Palliative care, Castle Point 737–8w
Polygamy 805–6w
Post offices, Closures 252w
Private finance initiative, Dept for Children Schools and Families 176w
Private finance initiative, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 846w
Private finance initiative, Home Office 341–2w
Private finance initiative, Ministry of Defence 292w
Prostitution, Essex 352–6w
Public expenditure, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 838w
Public expenditure, Dept for Children Schools and Families 1072w
Public expenditure, Dept for Communities and Local Government 398–9w
Public expenditure, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 1045–6w
Public expenditure, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 417w
Public expenditure, Dept for International Development 819–21w
Public expenditure, Dept for Transport 443w
Public expenditure, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 640–1w
Public expenditure, Ministry of Defence 711w
Public expenditure, Ministry of Justice 628w
Public expenditure, Northern Ireland Office 388w
Public expenditure, Office of the Secretary of State for Wales 5–6w
Public expenditure, Scotland Office 525–6w
Public expenditure, Treasury 117w
Renewable energy 616w
Schools, Closures 599
SS Richard Montgomery 447w
Suicide 1266–7w
Suicide, Essex 462–4w, 671w
Testicular cancer 279–80w
Visits, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 332–3w
Visits, 10 Downing Street, 449w

***Spink, Bob**—continued*
Voluntary organisations, Contracts 324–5w
Winter fuel payments, Castle Point 23w

Sponsorship
BBC 1358–9w
Culture 543w

Sports
Children 1153w
Chorley 15
Facilities 837w
Females 8–10, 1281w, 1364w
Finance 1054–5w
Homophobia 1150–1w
Internet 1044w
Per capita costs 1153–4w
Public participation 145–6w
Racial discrimination 1150–1w
Schools 133–4w, 904w, 1075–6w, 1361–2w, 1364w, 1423–4w
Voluntary work 912
Young people 413w

Sports competitors
Entry clearances 793–5w

Sportsgrounds
147–8w
Land use 64w

Spring, Mr Richard
Questions
Bus services, Concessions 531–2w
Dental services, East of England 262w

Squatting
976w

SS Richard Montgomery
447w

Staffordshire
Cervical cancer 547–8w
General practitioners 740–1w
Police custody 871w

Stamp duty land tax
238w, 462w, 1218w

Standards Board for England
Complaints 701w
Information officers 1375w

Standing Order No 163
(14.03.2008) 513

Standing orders
Select committees (11.03.2008) 255

Starkey, Dr Phyllis
Chamber Debates
Nail Bars and Special Treatment Premises (Regulation) Bill, 1R (17.03.2008) 632–4
Questions
Aviation, Security 683–4w
Personal care services, Industrial health and safety 832w
Pupils, Hay fever 913–4w
Schools, Milton Keynes 599–600
Secondary education, Children in care 921w

State retirement pensions
208w, 434w, 1162–3w, 1403–4w
Inflation 1065–6w

Statistics
Crime 1246–8w

Steen, Mr Anthony
Questions
Council tax, Coastal areas 227–8w
Females, Human trafficking 1072
Ismaili, Vladimir 937–8w

***Steen, Mr Anthony**—continued*
Young offenders, Custodial treatment 869w

Stewart, Ian
Questions
Children, Maintenance 423w

Stoate, Dr Howard
Questions
Accident and emergency departments, Admissions 546w
Bank services, Proof of identity 1265w
Prostate cancer 277
Prostate cancer, Health services 258w

Stop and search
Tamworth 806–7w
Terrorism 78w, 676–7w

Strang, Rt Hon Dr Gavin
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 316–20
Westminster Hall Debates
Developing countries, HIV infection (18.03.2008) 206–10wh

Stratford Station
Olympic Games 2012 391w

***Straw, Rt Hon Jack**, Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor*
Written Statements
Magistrates' courts, Leeds 12–4ws
Questions
Admiralty House 1087w
Asylum and Immigration Tribunal, Databases 672w
British nationality 143, 145
Cannabis, Crime 868w
Community orders 135–7
Constituencies 146
Courts, Disclosure of information 672w
Departmental reorganisation, Ministry of Justice 154w
Departmental responsibilities, Ministry of Justice 141
Elections, Expenditure 144
Financial reporting orders 155w
House of Lords, Reform 141, 372–3w
Legislation, Ministry of Justice 163–5w
Magistrates' courts, Leeds 144–5, 629–30w
National identity, Public participation 156w
Offenders, Rehabilitation 383w
Official cars, Ministry of Justice 1190w
Official hospitality, Ministry of Justice 152–3w
Open prisons, Prisoner escapes 870–1w
Police custody 157w, 379w, 871w
Police custody, Staffordshire 871w
Political parties, Expenditure 377w
Prison accommodation 127–8, 131–3, 157w, 380w
Prisoners 158w, 380w
Prisoners, Repatriation 630w
Prisoners' incentives and earned privileges scheme 509w
Prisoners' release, Employment 509w
Prisons 139–40 (6mc)
Prisons, Construction 162w
Prisons, Employment 379w
Prisons, Finance 872–5w
Prisons, Islam 875–6w
Public expenditure 143
Sentencing 142
Suicide, Internet 141–2

Street cleaning
706w

Streeter, Mr Gary
Questions
General practitioners, Working hours 741
Malawi, Orphans 272

Streptococcus
Pregnancy 748, 1323–4w

Stress
Health services 670w

Stringer, Mr Graham
Chamber Debates
London Underground (10.03.2008) 88, 98–101
Westminster Hall Debates
Woodhead railway line (11.03.2008) 64wh
Questions
Birmingham New Street Station 944w
Public expenditure 921

Strokes
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Trust 81w
Health services 990w

Stuart, Graham
Chamber Debates
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 159–60, 176
Westminster Hall Debates
Transport, Yorkshire and the Humber (11.03.2008) 23–8wh, 33–4wh, 44wh
Questions
Aggregates, Exports 942w
Death, Alcoholic drinks 115w
Dredging 942w
Floods, Repairs and maintenance 1014w
Foot and mouth disease, Pirbright 282–3
Humber bridge 950w
Humber bridge, Debts 123w
Humber bridge, Tolls 445w
Income tax, East Riding 462w
Internal drainage boards 1296w
Licensed premises, Yorkshire and the Humber 310–2w
Official engagements, Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber 68–9w
Post offices, Closures 490w
Railway stations 772w
Railways 216w
Self-mutilation 552–3w
Trams, Leeds 776w
Transport, Yorkshire and the Humber 67w, 777w

Student wastage
Higher education 1021–2w

Students
Bassetlaw 601w
Death 1022w
Finance 113–4w, 1020–1w
Grants 600–1w
Loans 29–30ws, 113w, 601w, 1022–3w
Plagiarism 921–2w
Politics and government 112w
Proof of identity 113w

Stun guns
Police 60–1ws

Stunell, Mr Andrew
Chamber Debates
Border and Immigration Agency (20.03.2008) 1183–7, 1190
Questions
Immigration 75w

Sudan
Armed conflict 106–7w, 274–5, 498–9w, 823w, 1188w
Arms trade 334w
Censorship 862w
China 726–8w
Females 499–500w
Food aid 823–4w
Overseas aid 280, 284–5w, 499w, 626w, 1269–70w
Peace negotiations 107w, 863w
Peacekeeping operations 107–8w, 334–5w, 500w, 1031–2w
Petitions 5p, 9–10p
Politics and government 285w
Sanctions 1284–5w

Suicide
1266–7w
Essex 462–4w, 671w
Internet 141–2
Prisoners 510w
Tamworth 463–5w
Teachers 129w
Young people 406–7w

Sunscreens
VAT 722w

Supply estimates
(10.03.2008) 117–8
Defence (10.03.2008) 117

Sure start programme
Finance 612–3, 916–7
Lancashire 594w

Surgery
755–6w, 758w
Ear nose and throat 266w

Surrey
Internet 249w

Surveillance
807w
Local government 77–8w
Police 935–6w

Surveys
Households 1215–6w

Sussex
Railways 776w

Sustainable development
Aviation 209–10w
Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 985w
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 849–50w
Housing 582w
Schools 919–21w
Transport 447w

Sutcliffe, Mr Gerry, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Dept for Culture Media and Sport
Westminster Hall Debates
Licensing laws, Durham (19.03.2008) 290–4wh
Written Statements
Playing fields 7ws
Questions
Alcoholic drinks, Antisocial behaviour 1049w
Alcoholic drinks, Health education 1359w
Alcoholic drinks, Misuse 310w
Alcoholic drinks, Retail trade 142w
Alcoholic drinks, Young people 312–4w
Arts, Community development 1357–8w
Arts, Finance 315w
Big Lottery Fund 1045w
Big Lottery Fund, Bexley 1149–50w
Big Lottery Fund, Tamworth 395–6w

Sutcliffe, Mr Gerry,—continued
Bingo 137w
Bingo, Taxation 134w
Casinos, Cash dispensing 541w
Casinos, Closures 1359w
Casinos, Opening hours 315w
Casinos, Regeneration 10–1,
Casinos, Young people 1359w
Civil Service Appeal Board, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 316w
Community Fund, Tamworth 391–4w
Data protection, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 543w
Discrimination, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 1046w
Empty property, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 1152w
Exercise 1046w
Gambling, Licensing 141–2w, 1047w
Gaming machines 1047w
Horse racing 142w
Horse racing, Bookmakers 320w
Horserace Totalisator Board 16–7, 133w
Impact assessments, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 1046w
Ipsos MORI, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 681w
Lacrosse 1047–8w
Leisure, Facilities 31w
Leisure, Wirral 1361w
Licensed premises 312w
Licensed premises, Closures 156w
Licensed premises, Kent 1048–50w
Licensed premises, Yorkshire and the Humber 310–2w
Licensing laws 134w
Licensing laws, Coventry 1044–5w
Licensing laws, Fees and charges 1048w
Museums and galleries 1051w
National Lottery, Grants 143–4w, 1047w
National Lottery, Swimming 321w
National Lottery, Tamworth 322w
National Lottery Distribution Fund 135w
Obesity 1051w
Official cars, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 1151w
Official hospitality, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 1151w
Olympic Games, China 315w
Pay, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 138w, 1151–2w
Pensions, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 544w
Plants, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 138w
Playgrounds, Expenditure 144–5w
Playing fields 1052–3w
Playing fields, Planning permission 682–3w, 1053–4w
Property, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 138w
Public expenditure, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 1045–6w
Public libraries, Cost effectiveness 233w
Recruitment, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 139w
Sports, Children 1153w
Sports, Females 8–10
Sports, Internet 1044w
Sports, Per capita costs 1153–4w
Sports, Public participation 145–6w
Sports, Racial discrimination 1150–1w
Sports, Schools 133–4w, 1361–2w
Sportsgrounds 147–8w
Swimming pools 147–8w, 1055–6w
Translation services, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 140w
Travel, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 139–40w

Sutton
Council housing 281

Swansea
Digital broadcasting 1360w

Swayne, Mr Desmond
Questions
Departmental responsibilities, Dept for Children Schools and Families 612
GCE A-level 612
GCE AS-level 899w
Listed buildings 7
River Lymington, Ferries 410
Roads, Repairs and maintenance 775w
Wetlands, Conservation 554w

Swimming
National Lottery 321w

Swimming pools
147–8w, 1055–6w

Swinson, Jo
Chamber Debates
Commonwealth (20.03.2008) 1109–10, 1117–23
Questions
China Task Force 360w
House of Commons, Video recordings 1079–80

Swire, Mr Hugo
Questions
Internet, Dept for Communities and Local Government 961–2w
Internet, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 316w
Internet, Dept of Health 1138w
Internet, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 1026–7w
Internet, Regulation 75w
McCann, Madeleine 784w
School leaving 908w
Unemployment, Dyspraxia 833w

Taking and driving away
Accidents 1116–7w

Tamworth
Big Lottery Fund 395–6w
Class sizes 913w
Classroom assistants 907w
Community Fund 391–4w
Health centres 741w
Housing 400w
National Lottery 322w
Palliative care 1317–8w
Stop and search 806–7w
Suicide 463–5w
Temporary accommodation 1210–1w
Youth services 596w

Tapsell, Sir Peter
Chamber Debates
Brussels Summit (EC) (17.03.2008) 625
Questions
Palestinians, Overseas aid 266

Tax allowances
Non-domestic rates 973w
Personal savings 128w

Tax avoidance
887w, 1013–4w

Tax collection
Council tax 1195–6w

Tax evasion
894w

Tax rates and bands
Council tax 960w, 1195–6w

Tax yields
Bingo 370w
Council tax 1196w

***Tax yields**—continued*
Income tax 535w, 887w
Non-domestic rates 1013w
VAT 538w, 721w

Taxation
Banks 365w
Bingo 128w, 134w
Gambling 720–1w
Pensions 1218–9w
Self-assessment 370w, 534w, 1216w

Taylor, Ms Dari
Chamber Debates
National security (19.03.2008) 940–1
Questions
Human trafficking 1258w
Prison accommodation 131–2
Schools, Standards 602
Shoplifting, Cleveland 358w

Taylor, Mr David
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 345, 350–1, (17.03.2008) 687–9
London Underground (10.03.2008) 86–7, 89, 93
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 998–9, 1013
Winter fuel payments (17.03.2008) 720–1, 723, 726
Westminster Hall Debates
Community policing (19.03.2008) 224wh, 230wh
Disabled, Poverty (11.03.2008) 1–2wh
Water charges (18.03.2008) 152wh, 156wh
Questions
Bishops, Females 1281w
Business questions 423–4
Business resource efficiency and waste programme 52w
Casinos, Regeneration 11
Cattle, Animal welfare 408–9, 730w
Disadvantaged, Rural areas 906–7
Energy, EC law 41w
Flood control 400–1
Hospitals, Food 93w
Landfill tax 128–9w
Night flying, East Midlands 528–9w
Prison Service, Pay 375w
Prisons, Islam 875–6w
Revenue and Customs, Pay 893w
Schools, Admissions 900w
Schools, Closures 598
Theatre, East Midlands 313–4w
Tobacco, Young people 1324–5w
UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 1280w

Taylor, Mr Ian
Chamber Debates
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 167

Taylor, Matthew
Westminster Hall Debates
Water charges (18.03.2008) 151–60wh, 162wh, 174wh
Questions
Antisocial behaviour orders, Cornwall 1245w
Housing, Low incomes 965–6w
Housing, Standards 61–2w

Taylor, Dr Richard
Chamber Debates
Accident and emergency departments (12.03.2008) 383–6
Westminster Hall Debates
Nursing and Midwifery Council (11.03.2008) 46–7wh

Teachers
Conduct 195w
Disciplinary proceedings 194w
Early retirement 194w
Eastbourne 194w
Exservicemen 195w
Graduates 193w
Higher education 112–3w
Manpower 1424–8w
Pay 606–7
Physical education 1425–8w
Qualifications 195–6w, 854–6w
Resignations 1427–8w
Retirement 1428–30w
Science 614–5
Sick leave 196w
Suicide 129w
Working hours 193–4w

Teaching methods
196w, 902w
Reading 1411–2w

Teather, Sarah
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 951, 969, 973–81
Questions
Consultants, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 841w
Consumers, Protection 251w
Foreign workers, Domestic service 797–8w
Heathrow Airport 213w
Information and communications technology, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 109w
Information and communications technology, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 101w
Low carbon buildings programme 618w
Parliament, Visits 396–7w

Technological change
Mass media (20.03.2008) 295–342wh

Teenage pregnancy
1010–1w

Telephone services
989w
Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 979w
Jobcentre Plus 570–1w, 1063–4w
Pension Service 207w

Telephone tapping
Costs 359w

Television
Advertising 149–50w
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 322w (475 1–2mc)
Dept for Transport 448w
Dept for Work and Pensions 832–3w
Government Equalities Office 524w
Home Office 359w
House of Commons 3w
Licensing 2ws, 1056w
Northern Ireland Office 200w
Prime Minister 1304w
Scotland Office 1265w
Solicitor-General 203w

Television channels
Irish 149w

Telford
Crime 1247–9w
Magistrates' courts 870w

Temporary accommodation
Eastbourne 976–7w
Tamworth 1210–1w

Temporary employment
Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 1224w
Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 418w
Foreign and Commonwealth Office 327–8w
Treasury 883w

10 Downing Street
Repairs and maintenance 1303w
Visits 449w

Tenancy deposit scheme
67w

Tenant Services Authority
700–1w

Territorial Army
Manpower 295w

Terrorism
677w, 936w
Arrests 807–8w
Finance 934w
Stop and search 78w, 676–7w

Testicular cancer
279–80w

Textbooks
Special educational needs 919

Thames Gateway
Further education 585w
Housing 1202w
Regional planning and development 585w

Thames Gateway Development Corporation
see London Thames Gateway Development Corporation

The Tote
see Horserace Totalisator Board

Theatre
East Midlands 313–4w

Theft
Churches 1066–7
Metals 936w
Ministry of Defence 809w
Motor vehicles 936–7w

***Thomas, Mr Gareth** (Harrow West), Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Dept for International Development and Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform*
Westminster Hall Debates
Developing countries, Water (19.03.2008) 271–8wh
Questions
Animal welfare, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 488w
Carbon emissions, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 247w
Certification quality marks, Fraud 485w
Consumers, Protection 251w
Cycling, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 1285–6w
Cyprus, Overseas trade 984w
Data Protection Act 1998, Prosecutions 1223w
Developing countries, HIV infection 1179–80w
Developing countries, Trade 502w
Discrimination, Dept for International Development 926w
Drinking water, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 486w
EC internal trade 1224–5w

***Thomas, Mr Gareth**—continued*
Energy, Complaints 248w
Fireworks 248w, 980w
Hearing Aid Council 471w
Homeworking, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 485w
International Development Association 502w
Internet, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 1223w
INTO University Partnerships, Accountancy 491w
Ipsos MORI, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 1226w
Israel, Foreign investment in UK 487w
Israel Britain Business Council, Finance 487w
Japan, Foreign investment in UK 27w
Manpower, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 979w
Members, Correspondence 1226–7w
Metals, Exports 679–80w
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, Finance 620w
Official cars, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 615w
Official hospitality, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 679w
Official visits, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 1223w
Older workers, Training 981w
Overseas aid 501w, 503w
Overseas aid, Cost effectiveness 1181w
Overseas companies 1227w
Pay, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 25–7w
Petrol, Prices 1227w
Property, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 485w
Public expenditure, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 838w
Secured loans 488w
Sudan, Overseas aid 1269–70w
Sustainable development, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 985w
Telephone services 989w
Telephone services, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 979w
Temporary employment, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 1224w
Toys and games, Safety 989w
UK Trade and Investment, Expenditure 989w
UN Convention against Corruption, Prosecutions 627w
UN Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses 824w
Written questions, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 486w, 1223–4w
Young people, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 485w

Thornberry, Emily
Questions
Bus services, Greater London 279

Three minutes rule
Rulings and statements (19.03.2008) 1027

Thurso, John
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 344, 351, 364–6
Northern Rock, Nationalisation (10.03.2008) 27, 31, 58, 61–3
Questions
Entry clearances, Sports competitors 793–5w

Tibet
Politics and government 915

Timms, Rt Hon Stephen, Minister of State, Dept for Work and Pensions
Questions
Computer software, Dept for Work and Pensions 430w
Data protection, Dept for Work and Pensions 569w, 1394w
Databases, Dept for Work and Pensions 17w
Employment 1061–2w
Employment schemes, Private sector 570w
In work credit 570w
Information and communications technology, Dept for Work and Pensions 17w, 1059–60w
Internet, Dept for Work and Pensions 569w
Jobcentre Plus, Dismissal 1397–8w
Jobcentre Plus, Telephone services 570–1w
Jobseeker's allowance 573w, 577–8w
Lone parents, Income support 826–7w
Lone parents, Welfare tax credits 17–8w
National insurance 573–6w
National insurance, Data protection 18–9w
National insurance, Foreign workers 574–7w
New deal for disabled people, Dorset 827w
New deal schemes 20–4w
Poverty, Children 434–5w, 832w, 1392w
Social security benefits, Data protection 1065w
Welfare to work, Finance 1066w

Tipping, Mr Paddy
Questions
Coastal areas, Access 396
House of Lords, Reform 372–3w

Tobacco
Smuggling 127w
Young people 1324–5w

Todd, Mr Mark
Questions
Energy, Complaints 248w
Offenders, Social security benefits 870w

Tolls
956–7w, 1219–20w, 1388–9w
Dartford-Thurrock Crossing 1377w
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 857w
Greater London 130w
Humber bridge 445w
Motorways 952w

Topical debates
1082

Topical questions
1081–2

Torbay
Dental services 263–4w

Torbay Hospital
Parking 553w
Waiting lists 759–60w

Touhig, Rt Hon Don
Questions
Committee on the Grant of Honours Decorations and Medals 638–9w
Committee on the Grant of Honours Decorations and Medals, Appeals 1026w
Committee on the Grant of Honours Decorations and Medals, Public appointments 638w

Tourism
1056–7w
Bermuda 492w
Coastal areas 14, 1057w
Finance 545w
North West 545w
Rural areas 17

Toys and games
Safety 989w

Trade
Developing countries 502w

Trade unions
Iran 642–3w
Labour Party 279

Traffic lights
Road traffic offences 446w

Train to gain programme
1024w

Training
Armed forces 63–4ws
Army 455–6w
Construction 597w
Health professions 745–6
Industrial health and safety 852w
Older workers 981w
Revenue and Customs 535w
Welfare tax credits 896w
Young people 282

Trams
Leeds 776w

Translation services
Dept for Children Schools and Families 907–8w
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 140w
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 114w, 850–1w
Dept for Transport 443w
Foreign and Commonwealth Office 102w
Home Office 790–1w

Transport
Bournemouth 530–1w
East of England 531w
Kent 531w
North East 448w
Nuclear weapons 663w
Radioactive waste 1111–2w, 1386w
Schools 184w, 189–92w, 766–7w, 1076–9w
Shoreham 31w
Sustainable development 447w
Urban areas 448–9w
Wales 447w
Yorkshire and the Humber (11.03.2008) 23–45wh, 67w, 777w

Trapping
49w, 1130w

Travel
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 139–40w
Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 39–40w

Travel*—*continued
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 851–2w
Dept for Transport 211w, 693w, 1113w
Dept for Work and Pensions 1160w
Foreign and Commonwealth Office 1183–4w
Ministry of Defence 14w, 293w
Ministry of Justice 628–9w
Scotland Office 526w

Travelling people
East of England 65–6w
Prisons 875–6w

Treasury
Accountancy 717w
Advertising 116w
Civil Service Appeal Board 360–1w
Cole Layer Trumble 1213w
Complaints 362w
Cost effectiveness 362w
Data protection 717w
Databases 717–8w
Discrimination 1215w
Freedom of information 116–7w
Hearing impaired 1215w
Information and communications technology 883w
Internet 1265–6w
Manpower 362–4w
Official cars 363w
Pensions 718w
Planning permission 719w
Property 363–4w
Public expenditure 117w
Recruitment 533w
Temporary employment 883w
Written questions 533w

Treaty of Lisbon
714–5w, 725–6w, 811w, 813–4w
Referendums 647w

Tredinnick, Mr David
Questions
Cancer, Screening 732

Tree preservation orders
68w

Trees
Urban areas 1197w

Trespass
357–8w
Aiding and abetting 607–8w

Tribunals
Ministry of Justice 521–2w

Trickett, Jon
Questions
Consultants, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 841w
Drugs, Side effects 1147–8w

Trident missiles
665w

Trust schools
196–7w

Truswell, Mr Paul
Westminster Hall Debates
Transport, Yorkshire and the Humber (11.03.2008) 28–31wh, 37wh

Tuberculosis
Developing countries 626w

Turner, Mr Andrew
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 993–5

Turner, Mr Andrew*—*continued
Questions
Prisons, Construction 375–6w

Turner, Dr Desmond
Chamber Debates
Animals Act 1971 (Amendment) Bill, 2R adjourned (14.03.2008) 548–9, 552
Questions
Business questions 417

Twelve minutes rule
Rulings and statements (19.03.2008) 946

Twigg, Derek, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence
Questions
Armed forces, Archives 1173w
Armed forces, Cadets 289–90w, 1163w
Armed forces, Compensation 11w
Armed forces, Conditions of employment 1035w
Armed forces, Council tax 809w
Armed forces, Genetics 451–2w
Armed forces, Health 454w
Armed forces, Housing 12w, 286–9w, 452–3w, 1034–7w, 1166w, 1304w
Armed forces, Inheritance tax 11w
Armed forces, Pay 708–10w
Armed forces, Pensions 458w
Armed forces, Political impartiality 664w
Armed forces, Post traumatic stress disorder 1038w
Armed forces, Uniforms 648–9w
Assets, Ministry of Defence 1039–40w
Defence, Honours 809w
Disabled, Ministry of Defence 1167w
Empty property, Ministry of Defence 810w
Equality, Ministry of Defence 13w
Eurostar, Ministry of Defence 13w
Exservicemen, Disabled 14w, 1168w
Exservicemen, Employment schemes 458–9w
Impact assessments, Ministry of Defence 457w
Internet, Ministry of Defence 810w
Ipsos MORI, Ministry of Defence 811w
Iraq, Peacekeeping operations 294w, 1169–70w
Land, Ministry of Defence 709–10w
Manpower, Ministry of Defence 13w, 1040w
Marketing, Ministry of Defence 458w
Massereene Barracks 812w
Members, Correspondence 812w
Official cars, Ministry of Defence 810w
Official visits, Ministry of Defence 711w
Prisoners of war, Compensation 12w
Property, Ministry of Defence 1040–1w
Public bodies, Ministry of Defence 459–60w
Public expenditure, Ministry of Defence 711w
RAF Halton, Complaints 813w
RM Condor 16w
Theft, Ministry of Defence 809w
Travel, Ministry of Defence 14w, 293w
Wind power, Ministry of Defence 296–7w, 663w, 1044w, 1307w
Written questions, Government responses 814w, 1044w
Written questions, Ministry of Defence 458w

Type 23 frigates
666w

Type 45 destroyers
1174w

Tyrie, Mr Andrew
Questions
Iraq, Detainees 1306w

Uganda
Armed conflict 500–1w, 1032w
Peace negotiations 647–8w, 1188–9w

UK Border Agency
11–2ws

UK Co-operative Movement
see Co-operative Movement

UK Trade and Investment
Expenditure 989w

UN Convention against Corruption
Prosecutions 627w

UN Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses
824w

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
1280w

UN Security Council
Sanctions 108w

UN World Conference against Racism
1w, 330w, 726w, 1184–5w

Unemployment
915
Dyspraxia 833w
Wales 204–5w
Young people 197–8w

Uniforms
Armed forces 279–80, 290w, 648–9w, 1042–3w
Schools 371w

Union Modernisation Fund
Audit 31w

United Kingdom NIREX
Finance 983w

United Nations
see also UN headings
Afghanistan 858w, 1283w

Universities
see Higher education

Unpaid fines
Parking offences 690–1w

Unparliamentary expressions
Rulings and statements (19.03.2008) 942, 949

Upchurch
Land use 1298w

Uranium, depleted
see Depleted uranium

Urban areas
Regeneration 924
Transport 448–9w
Trees 1197w

Urban Regeneration Agency
see English Partnerships

Urinary system
Cancer 280w

USA
Aviation 1375–6w
Biofuels 684w
Fraud 1033w

Vacant land
English Partnerships 399w

Vaccination
Bluetongue disease 409, 414–5w, 1118w

Vaizey, Edward
Westminster Hall Debates
Arts (20.03.2008) 300wh, 302wh, 305wh, 307wh, 312–3wh, 322wh, 332–8wh
Questions
Art works, World War II 135–6w
Convergence Think Tank 137w, 316w, 1045w
Culture, West Midlands 1150w
Offenders, Rehabilitation 313w

Valuation
Community centres 958w
Council tax 717w, 721w, 895w, 960w, 1196w, 1214–5w
Housing 895w
Non-domestic rates 973w, 1207w
Property 894w
Religious buildings 1206w

Valuation Office
Cole Layer Trumble 1220w
Data protection 130–1w
Digital technology 130w, 895w
Industrial disputes 721w
Information and communications technology 715w, 1220–1w
Publications 1212w
Retirement 721w
Rightmove 1221w
Video recordings 1014w
Visits abroad 895w

Vandalism
881–2w
Arrests 808w
Buses 79w, 1263–4w
Durham 1104–6w

Vara, Shailesh
Chamber Debates
Business questions intervention (13.03.2008) 412
Commonwealth (20.03.2008) 1106
Questions
Armed forces, Housing 1304w
Chronically sick, Cambridgeshire 259w
Domestic violence, Arrests 1249–50w
Domestic violence, Sentencing 385–6w
General practitioners, Working hours 741w
Overseas aid 503w
Palliative care, Cambridgeshire 551w
Schools, Crimes of violence 194w
Teachers, Sick leave 196w
Teachers, Suicide 129w
Teachers, Working hours 193–4w
Voluntary organisations, Contracts 324–5w
Written questions 1078
Written questions, Government responses 409w

VAT
718w, 1014w
Bingo 722w
Fraud 131w, 1222w
Housing 895–6w
Leisure 371w, 465w
Packaging 538w
Rebates 370w
Registration 1221–2w
Sunscreens 722w
Tax yields 538w, 721w

Vaz, Rt Hon Keith
Chamber Debates
Brussels Summit (EC) (17.03.2008) 625
Budget March 2008 (17.03.2008) 677–81
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 176, 192–7, 203

Vaz, Rt Hon Keith—continued
National security (19.03.2008) 936
Questions
Animal experiments 407–8w
Birds, Conservation 1294w
Birds, Game 1294w
Business questions 422
Entry clearances 930w
Immigration, South Asia 359w
Prisoners, Diabetes 1355w
Prisoners, Self-mutilation 1355w
Prisons, Drugs 1356w
State retirement pensions 208w
Welfare tax credits 1222w
Welfare tax credits, Appeals 1222w

Vegetarianism
226w

Vehicles
Armed forces 1165w

Veterinary medicine
Research 554w

Vetting
413w
Civil servants 1276w
Dept for Work and Pensions 1402–3w

Victim support schemes
Domestic violence 1074–6, 1263w
Sexual offences 1263w

Video games
Children 135w

Video recordings
House of Commons 1079–80
Illegal broadcasting 1192w
Valuation Office 1014w

Viggers, Mr Peter
Questions
Electoral Commission, Ipsos MORI 729w
Electoral register 1063–5
Electronic voting 1109w
Political parties, Finance 729–30w, 1281–2w

Village halls
227w
Finance 1212w

Villiers, Theresa
Chamber Debates
Animals Act 1971 (Amendment) Bill, 2R adjourned (14.03.2008) 572
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 217, 238
Questions
A30, Bodmin 944w
Abandoned vehicles, Fees and charges 1111w
Birmingham New Street Station 765w
Crossrail line, Consultants 1112w
Cycling 767w
Cycling, Children 767–8w
Cycling England, Consultants 768w
Data protection, Dept for Children Schools and Families 403–4w
Data protection, Dept for Communities and Local Government 693w
Data protection, Dept for Transport 7w, 684w, 768w
Databases, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 416w
Databases, Dept for Work and Pensions 17w
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Publications 684–6w
Grants, Dept for Transport 1388w
Great Western Trains 947–8w
Great Western Trains, Passengers 769w
Great Western Trains, Standards 946–9w

Villiers, Theresa—continued
Heathrow Airport 689w, 949–50w, 1379–85w
Inland waterways 689–90w
Motor vehicles, Excise duties 690w, 771–2w, 775w
Motor vehicles, Registration 1114w
Public transport, Research 954w, 1389w
Railways, Crime 773w
Railways, Fares 773–4w
Railways, Franchises 10w
Railways, Overcrowding 774w
Railways, Standards 954–5w
Road traffic control 774–5w, 955w
Roads, Accidents 692w
Speed limits, Cameras 776w
Transport, Radioactive waste 1111–2w
Transport, Schools 189–92w, 1076–9w
Travel, Dept for Transport 693w

Visits
Foreign and Commonwealth Office 332–3w
Parliament 396–8w
10 Downing Street 449w

Visits abroad
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 851–2w
Regional development agencies 31w
Valuation Office 895w

Vocational education
922w

Vocational guidance
114w, 607–8

Vocational training
33–6ws, 114–5w, 280–1, 595w
Standards 1024w

Voluntary organisations
907–9, 1134w, 1303–4w
Contracts 324–5w, 461w, 866w
Employment schemes 570w
Ethnic groups 234w
Finance 707–8w, 1134w, 1136–7w
Health services 669w
Learning disability 1080–1w

Voluntary work
1135–6w
Olympic Games 2012 69w
Sports 912

Wales
Bus services 440–1w
Citizenship Review 816w
Council tax 717w, 721w, 895w, 1325w
Devolution 6w, 1325–6w
Fly tipping 925w
Foreign relations 203w
HM Courts Service 204w
Hospitals 1326w
Iron and steel 6w
Juries 373w
Landfill 1297–8w
Learning disability 204w
Local government 817w
Prisoners 510w
Schools 1326w
Transport 447w
Unemployment 204–5w
Waste disposal 40–1w

Wales Office
see Office of the Secretary of State for Wales

Walker, Charles
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (13.03.2008) 481, 491–4
Questions
Juries, Mentally ill 1191–2w

***Walker, Charles**—continued*
Manpower, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 979w

Wallace, Ben
Questions
Ear nose and throat, Surgery 266w

Walley, Ms Joan
Chamber Debates
National security (19.03.2008) 939
Westminster Hall Debates
Arts (20.03.2008) 296wh, 321–3wh, 328wh, 340wh
Questions
Children, Disabled 591w
Fireworks 248w, 980w
Hearing Aid Council 471w
Welfare tax credits, Compensation 127–8w

Waltho, Lynda
Questions
General practitioners, Working hours 991w

War crimes
Yugoslavia 494w, 1032w

War pensions
Appeals 375w

Warrington
Arts 835–6w
Housing (19.03.2008) 247–55wh
Leisure 322w, 837w

Warships
665–6w, 1174–6w

Waste
Agriculture 1294w

Waste and Resources Action Programme
555w
Finance 1130w

Waste disposal
Crown lands and estates 41w
Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 221w
Domestic waste 55w, 222w, 228w, 421–2w, 1123–4w, 1132w, 1367–8w
Embassies 642w
Fees and charges 40w, 49–50w, 222w, 555–62w, 1123–4w, 1131–2w
Hazardous substances 43–4w
Livestock 562w
Meat 562w
Plastics 1131w
Ports 691–2w
Prisons 1133w
Refrigerators 1127–8w
Scotland 40–1w
Wales 40–1w

Waste management
391–2, 732w
Finance 50–1w
Radioactive waste 252w
Standards 1133w

Water
Developing countries (19.03.2008) 256–78wh
Housing 69w
Meters 1299–300w

Water charges
(18.03.2008) 151–75wh, 733w, 1299w

Water treatment
Sewage 48w

Waterson, Mr Nigel
Questions
Ambulance services, East Sussex 254–5w
Chronically sick, Eastbourne 260w

***Waterson, Mr Nigel**—continued*
Class sizes, Eastbourne 175w
Classroom assistants, Eastbourne 175w
General certificate of secondary education, Eastbourne 179–80w
Microgeneration 619w
Occupational pensions 827–8w
Palliative care, Eastbourne 479w, 551–2w
Pensioners, Poverty 831w
State retirement pensions 1403–4w
Teachers, Early retirement 194w
Temporary accommodation, Eastbourne 976–7w
Voluntary organisations, Contracts 324–5w

Watford-Brighton railway line
1388w

Watkinson, Angela
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 1028–9
Questions
Post offices, Closures 923
Prison accommodation, Shipping 128–9

Watson, Tom, Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office
Written Statements
Members, Correspondence 71–3ws
Questions
Abbott Mead Vickers, Cabinet Office 322w
Admiralty House 590–1w
Advertising, Cabinet Office 323–4w
Aviation, Cabinet Office 1300w
Buildings, Cabinet Office 863w
Civil servants, Manpower 323w
Civil servants, Vetting 1276w
Civil Service Appeal Board, Cabinet Office 588w
Data protection, Cabinet Office 1300w
Data protection, Government departments 914, 1300–2w
Discrimination, Cabinet Office 1301w
Electronic government 1302w
Fairtrade initiative, Cabinet Office 589w
Industrial disputes, Cabinet Office 864w
Industrial health and safety, Cabinet Office 590w
Legislation, Public participation 1303w
Media Monitoring Unit 1302w
Ministers, Official residences 588–9w
Official residences, Cabinet Office 324w
Official visits, Cabinet Office 589w
Older workers, Cabinet Office 589w
Pensions, Cabinet Office 589w
Planning permission, Cabinet Office 865w
Plants, Cabinet Office 324w
Public appointments, Parliamentary scrutiny 324w
Public Services Forum Task Group 866w
Resignations, Cabinet Office 1301w
Television, Prime Minister 1304w
10 Downing Street, Repairs and maintenance 1303w

Weapons
Armed forces 295–6w, 1165–6w
Iraq 860w

Webb, Mr Steve
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (17.03.2008) 636, 643, 648, 657–64, 706
Questions
Coal fired power stations, Kingsnorth 616w, 978w
Computers 1016–7w
Greenhouse gas emissions 395–6
Post offices, Closures 488–9w

***Webb, Mr Steve**—continued*
Street cleaning 706w

Weir, Mr Mike
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 949–50, 996
Questions
Data protection, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 543w
Data protection, Dept for International Development 1178w
Data protection, Dept for Work and Pensions 1394w
Data protection, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 1183w
Data protection, Ministry of Defence 1040w
Data protection, Office of the Secretary of State for Wales 5w
Fairtrade initiative, Home Office 74w
Fairtrade initiative, Ministry of Defence 656w
Property, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 1120–2w
Property, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 110w
Property, Dept for Work and Pensions 825–6w
RM Condor 16w
Wind power, Dept for Communities and Local Government 977w
Wind power, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 546w
Wind power, Dept for Transport 10w
Wind power, Dept of Health 763w
Wind power, Ministry of Defence 296–7w
Wind power, Ministry of Justice 1105–6w

Welfare tax credits
131w, 722w, 886–7w, 896–7w, 1013w, 1222w, 1267–8w
Appeals 371–2w, 1015–6w, 1222w
Compensation 127–8w
Foreigners 372w
Fraud 372w, 1015w
Lone parents 17–8w
Manpower 127w, 894w
Morecambe 132w
Overpayments 132w, 897–8w
Overtime 1014–5w
Preston 368w
Training 896w

Welfare to work
Finance 1066w

Welsh Assembly
see National Assembly for Wales

Welsh Authority
see S4C

West coast railway line
1389w
Electric cables 213w

West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust
760–4w

West Mercia Police
Manpower 805w

West Midlands
Air pollution 938–9w
Culture 1150w
Foreign workers 884–6w
Housing 66–7w, 232w

Western Cheshire Primary Care Trust
Dental services 996–7w

Wetlands
Conservation 554w

Whales
Conservation 408, 706–7w

Wheelchairs
Safety 484w

White fish
706w

Whitehaven
Revenue and Customs 533–5w, 1217–8w

Whitehead, Dr Alan
Questions
Landfill tax 536w, 732w, 1217w

Whittingdale, Mr John
Westminster Hall Debates
Arts (20.03.2008) 298wh, 305–10wh, 339wh
Questions
Arts 3

***Wicks, Malcolm,** Minister of State, Dept of Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform*
Questions
Biofuels 611w
British Coal Corporation, Assets 978w
Coal, Pollution control 246w
Coal fired power stations 240–1w, 248w, 611–2w
Coal fired power stations, Carbon sequestration 239w, 612–3w
Coal fired power stations, Environment protection 245–6w
Coal fired power stations, Kingsnorth 239–46w, 613–6w, 978–9w
Computers 1016–7w
Construction, Public sector 536w
Direct mail 247w
Domestic accidents 226–7w
Electric cables 486w
Electronic equipment 979–82w
Energy, EC law 980–1w
Energy, Meters 615–6w
Energy, Prices 247w
Foreign companies, Internet 980w
Fuel poverty, Greater London 249w
Fuel poverty, Hampshire 570w
Industrial diseases, Compensation 250w, 616w, 619w
Internet, Surrey 249w
Investment, Beer 238w
Liquefied petroleum gas 982w
Liquefied petroleum gas, Competition 249–50w
Low carbon buildings programme 618–9w, 1231–6w
Microgeneration 619w
Natural gas, Distribution 982–3w
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, Foreign workers 251w
Nuclear fuel reprocessing 620w
Nuclear power, International cooperation 616w
Office for Civil Nuclear Security, Manpower 984w
Oikos Storage, Canvey Island 624w
Oil, Exploration 251w
Oil, Prices 620w
Opencast mining, Health hazards 251–2w
Press, Advertising 985w
Radioactive materials 983–4w
Radioactive materials, Research 978w
Radioactive waste, Waste management 252w
Renewable energy 253w, 616w, 622–3w, 985–7w
Sellafield, Plutonium 987–8w
Small businesses 988–90w
Solar power, Heating 623–4w, 989w
United Kingdom NIREX, Finance 983w

***Wicks, Malcolm,**—continued*
Wind power 624–5w
Written questions, Government responses 681w

Widowed people
Pension credit 208w

Wiggin, Mr Bill
Chamber Debates
Animals Act 1971 (Amendment) Bill, 2R adjourned (14.03.2008) 523, 527, 530–6, 547, 554
Budget March 2008 (17.03.2008) 640, 701–5
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 986
Questions
Advertising, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 36–7w
Bluetongue disease, Vaccination 409
Bus lanes, Motorcycles 439–40w
Common fisheries policy 35–6w
Convergence Think Tank 11–2
Fisheries, Inspections 42w, 703–4w
Fisheries, Protection 222w
Fisheries, Quotas 42–3w
Fisheries, Subsidies 42w, 703w
Jellyfish 1125–6w
Marine and Fisheries Agency, Manpower 45–6w
Nature conservation, Crime 867–8w
Seas and oceans, Environment protection 47w, 725–6w
Special areas of conservation 48w
Whales, Conservation 706–7w
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Prosecutions 564–6w

Wildlife
Smuggling 1299w

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
Questions
Prosecutions 564–6w

Willetts, Mr David
Questions
Apprentices 285–6w
Housing, Construction 59w
Overseas students, Entry clearances 111w
Students, Death 1022w
Students, Loans 1023w
Vocational training 114–5w

Williams, Rt Hon Alan
Questions
Digital broadcasting, Swansea 1360w

Williams, Hywel
Chamber Debates
Brussels Summit (EC) (17.03.2008) 627
Questions
Developing countries, HIV infection 273
Digital broadcasting 2
Navy, Data protection 812–3w

Williams, Mark
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 1029–30
Questions
Jobcentre Plus, Telephone services 570–1w

Williams, Mr Roger
Chamber Debates
Animals Act 1971 (Amendment) Bill, 2R adjourned (14.03.2008) 529–30, 556, 582
Questions
Bluetongue disease, Disease control 403
Business questions 426
Civil servants, Vetting 1276w
Dolphins, Moray Firth 1123w
Heating, EC law 981w

***Williams, Mr Roger**—continued*
Livestock, Waste disposal 562w
Meat Hygiene Service 472–3w
Sharks, Conservation 1128–9w
Waste and Resources Action Programme, Finance 1130w

Williams, Stephen
Chamber Debates
Climate change (19.03.2008) 1049–50
Questions
Graduates, Personal records 598w
Higher education, Admissions 599–600w
Higher education, Student wastage 1021–2w
Higher education, Teachers 112–3w
Income tax, Tax yields 535w, 887w
Students, Finance 113–4w
Students, Loans 113w, 601w, 1022–3w

Willis, Mr Phil
Chamber Debates
Harrogate Theatre (10.03.2008) 119–22
Questions
Social services, Elderly 738

Willott, Jenny
Questions
Armed forces, Genetics 451–2w
Biofuels 238–9w, 611w
CJD 256w
Great Western Trains, Standards 444w
Low carbon buildings programme 618–9w, 1231–6w
Pakistan, Entry clearances 1187–8w
Police custody 871w
Prison accommodation 510–1w
Prisoners' release 138
Renewable energy 622–3w, 985–7w
Solar power, Heating 623–4w, 989w
Written questions, Government responses 610w

***Wills, Mr Michael,** Minister of State, Ministry of Justice*
Questions
Electronic government 98w
Equality, Ministry of Justice 1083w
House of Lords, Reform 372w
Land Registry, Retirement 869–70w
Politics and government, Public participation 373w
Public expenditure, Ministry of Justice 628w
Radio frequency identification, Privacy 880w

Wilson, Mr Phil
Chamber Debates
Regeneration, Newton Aycliffe (11.03.2008) 256–61

Wilson, Robert
Chamber Debates
Commonwealth (20.03.2008) 1101
Questions
Business questions 1094–5
Foundation degrees 598w
Tax yields, Bingo 370w

Wilson, Sammy
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (12.03.2008) 309, 349, 353, (13.03.2008) 442
European Union (Amendment) Bill, 3R (11.03.2008) 223–7
Questions
Biofuels 409–10
Business questions 423

Wind power
624–5w
Dept for Communities and Local Government 977w

***Wind power**—continued*
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 546w
Dept for Transport 10w
Dept of Health 763w
Ministry of Defence 296–7w, 663w, 1044w, 1307w
Ministry of Justice 1105–6w

Window blinds
Safety (12.03.2008) 98–105wh

Wines
Imports 491w, 939w
Low alcohol drinks 491w, 680–1w, 939w

Winnick, David
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (13.03.2008) 434, 440, (18.03.2008) 786
Questions
Business questions 416
Correspondence, Home Office 608w
London Midland, Correspondence 1375w
Members, Correspondence 76w, 731w, 801w
Welfare tax credits, Preston 368w

Winter fuel payments
(17.03.2008) 719–30, 833–4w, 840w
Castle Point 23w
Greater London 1066–7w
Hampshire 208–9w, 834w
Morecambe 834w

Winterton, Ann
Questions
Afghanistan, Peacekeeping operations 450w
Horse racing 142w
Salt 223w, 992w
Schools, Sports 904w
Veterinary medicine, Research 554w

Winterton, Sir Nicholas
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 969
Questions
Business questions 420
Developing countries, Elections 271
Family courts 146
General practitioners, Rural areas 747–8
Headaches 1139–40w
Investment, Beer 238w
Lacrosse 1047–8w
Nitrate vulnerable zones 403
Pulmonary arterial hypertension, Drugs 1145–6w
Schools, Closures 599
Sports, Females 9

***Winterton, Rt Hon Rosie,** Minister of State and Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber, Dept for Transport*
Chamber Debates
London Underground (10.03.2008) 113–6
Westminster Hall Debates
Transport, Yorkshire and the Humber (11.03.2008) 42–5wh
Woodhead railway line (11.03.2008) 66–70wh
Questions
Blue badge scheme 439w
Bus lanes, Motorcycles 439–40w
Bus services, Concessions 440–1w, 526–7w, 531–2w, 765–6w, 945–6w, 953w, 1376w
Bus services, Kent 1376–7w
Bus services, Rural areas 441w
Cycling 767w
Cycling, Children 767–8w
Cycling England, Consultants 768w
Dartford-Thurrock Crossing 527w

***Winterton, Rt Hon Rosie,**—continued*
Dartford-Thurrock Crossing, Tolls 1377w
Grants, Dept for Transport 1388w
Humber bridge 950w
Humber bridge, Tolls 445w
M6, Heysham 952w
Metronet, Finance 528w
Motorways, Tolls 952w
Parking offences, Unpaid fines 690–1w
Public expenditure, Dept for Transport 1379w
Public transport, Antisocial behaviour 772w
Public transport, Morecambe 446w
Public transport, Research 954w, 1389w
Road traffic control 774–5w, 955w
Roads, Lighting 955–6w
Roads, Peterborough 529w
Roads, Repairs and maintenance 446–7w, 775w
Tolls 956–7w, 1388–9w
Transport, Bournemouth 530–1w
Transport, Kent 531w
Transport, North East 448w
Transport, Schools 766–7w, 1076–9w
Transport, Sustainable development 447w
Transport, Urban areas 448–9w
Transport, Yorkshire and the Humber 777w

Wirral
Dermatology 744–5
Gifted children 181w
Leisure 1361w
Population 122–3w

Wirral Hospital
Petitions (17.03.2008) 718

Wishart, Pete
Westminster Hall Debates
Arts (20.03.2008) 315–21wh
Questions
Sick leave, Dept for Culture Media and Sport 319w
Sick leave, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 418w
Sick leave, Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 849w
Sick leave, Dept for International Development 821w
Temporary employment, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 418w
Temporary employment, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 327–8w
Temporary employment, Treasury 883w

Women
see Females

Wood, Mr Mike
Questions
Drugs, Smuggling 1085–6w
Equality, Ministry of Justice 1083–4w
Homelessness 1199–200w
National Offender Management Service, Manpower 1087–8w
Pakistan, Entry clearances 1187w
Police custody, Death 803w
Probation, Finance 1103w
Probation officers 878–9w
VAT, Bingo 722w

Woodhead railway line
(11.03.2008) 62–70wh

***Woodward, Rt Hon Shaun,** Secretary of State for Northern Ireland*
Questions
Cost effectiveness, Northern Ireland Office 387–8w

***Woodward, Rt Hon Shaun,**—continued*
Impact assessments, Northern Ireland Office 388w
Official hospitality, Northern Ireland Office 388w
Older workers, Northern Ireland Office 199w
Property, Northern Ireland Office 1109w
Public expenditure, Northern Ireland Office 388w
Recruitment, Northern Ireland Office 199w
Television, Northern Ireland Office 200w
Written questions, Northern Ireland Office 388–9w

***Woolas, Phil,** Minister of State, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs*
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (17.03.2008) 657
Westminster Hall Debates
Water charges (18.03.2008) 158wh, 172–5wh
Questions
Agriculture, Waste 1294w
Brofiscin quarry, Hazardous substances 43w
Drinking water, Government departments 701–2w
Flood control, Finance 704–5w
Floods, Housing 1372w
Floods, Maps 43w
Floods, River Severn 1299w
Greenhouse gas emissions 392–6, 553–4w
Ground water, Pollution 731–2w
Hazardous substances, Waste disposal 43–4w
Home energy efficiency scheme 44w, 408, 555w, 705w, 1295–7w
Internal drainage boards 1296w
Internal drainage boards, East of England 223–5w
Internal drainage boards, South West 1296w
International Environmental Transformation Fund 225w
Members, Correspondence 731w
Mineral waters 397–8
Nitrate vulnerable zones 403–4
Oikos Storage, Canvey Island 45–6w
Renewable energy 405
Sewage, Water treatment 48w
Sewers 48–9w
Water, Meters 1299–300w
Water charges 733w, 1299w

Work experience
197w

Working hours
General practitioners 740–1, 740–1w, 741, 741w, 742, 991w, 998w
Teachers 193–4w

Working mothers
Flexible working 1279–80w

Working Neighbourhoods Fund
586–7w, 977w
Leeds 588w

Working tax credit
Foreigners 898–9w
Morecambe 538–9w

World War II
Art works 135–6w

Wright, David
Questions
Bus services, Concessions 766w, 945w
Crime, Telford 1247–9w
M6 Toll, M54 771w

Wright, David*—*continued
Magistrates' courts, Young offenders 870w
NHS, Drugs 1006w
West Mercia Police, Manpower 805w

Wright, Iain, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Dept for Communities and Local Government
Chamber Debates
Regeneration, Newton Aycliffe (11.03.2008) 261–4
Westminster Hall Debates
Housing, Warrington (19.03.2008) 251–5wh
Written Statements
Microgeneration, Planning permission 20–1ws
Planning permission 1–2ws
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Standards 67ws
Questions
Boilers, Safety measures 399–400w
Bridging NewcastleGateshead, Finance 578w
Casinos, Planning permission 235w
Council housing, Equity 63w
Council housing, Overcrowding 579w
Council housing, Property transfer 60w, 958–9w
Council housing, Waiting lists 1194–5w
Derelict land 781–2w
Domestic waste, Waste disposal 55w
Emergencies, Planning 977w
Empty property 58w
English Partnerships, Vacant land 399w
Homelessness 1199–200w
Housing, Building alterations 61w
Housing, Carbon emissions 58w
Housing, Construction 59–60w, 584w, 968w
Housing, Demolition 967w
Housing, Disabled 400w
Housing, Easington 230w
Housing, Elderly 230w
Housing, Energy 964w
Housing, Finance 400w
Housing, Immigrants 59–61w, 1201w
Housing, Low incomes 231–2w, 401w, 580w, 778w, 961w, 965–6w, 1201–2w
Housing, Morecambe 231w
Housing, Standards 58w, 61–2w, 581–2w, 967–8w
Housing, Sustainable development 582w
Housing, Water 69w
Housing and planning delivery grant 62w, 971–2w
Housing associations, Standards 1372–3w
Housing revenue accounts 401w
Impact assessments, Dept for Communities and Local Government 54–5w
Land, Contamination 779w
Land, Prices 232–3w
Leasehold 586w
Licensed premises, Planning 1203w
Local government services 64w
Maps, EC law 972w
Ordnance Survey 973w, 1207w

Wright, Iain,*—*continued
Planning Inspectorate 1213w
Planning obligations 977w
Planning obligations, Greater London 974w
Prisons, Construction 584–5w
Property development, Floods 57w, 229w
Second homes, Planning permission 974w
Sportsgrounds, Land use 64w
Squatting 976w
Stamp duty land tax 238w
Temporary accommodation, Eastbourne 976–7w
Temporary accommodation, Tamworth 1210–1w
Tenancy deposit scheme 67w
Tenant Services Authority 700–1w
Travelling people, East of England 65–6w
Tree preservation orders 68w
Urban areas, Trees 1197w
Wind power, Dept for Communities and Local Government 977w

Wright, Jeremy
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 955
Questions
Bail accommodation and support service 131

Wright, Tony
Questions
Dental services, Waiting lists 264w

Written questions
1077–8, 1081, 1278w
Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 486w, 1223–4w
Dept for Communities and Local Government 228w
Dept for Culture Media and Sport 319w
Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 419w
Dept of Health 739w, 1001w
Diplomatic service 102w
Foreign and Commonwealth Office 327–8w
Government responses 76w, 349w, 409w, 418–9w, 610w, 681w, 690w, 783–4w, 801w, 814w, 1044w, 1159w, 1181w, 1264w
Ministry of Defence 458w
Ministry of Justice 629w
Northern Ireland Office 388–9w
Office of the Secretary of State for Wales 6w
Prime Minister 1009w
Scotland Office 1w
Treasury 533w

Wyatt, Derek
Questions
Disadvantaged 910
Dogs, Licensing 941w
Land use, Upchurch 1298w
Moorfields Eye Hospital, Macular degeneration 1004w

York
Class sizes 176w
Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 38–9w

York*—*continued
Primary education 185–6w

Yorkshire and the Humber
Alcoholic drinks 71w
Licensed premises 310–2w
Post offices 490w
Transport (11.03.2008) 23–45wh, 67w, 777w

Young, Sir George
Chamber Debates
Budget March 2008 (13.03.2008) 469–72
Questions
Business questions 417–8, 1093
Electoral register 1064–5

Young offenders
386w
Custodial treatment 378w, 386w, 869w, 1327–9w
Magistrates' courts 870w

Young people
Alcoholic drinks 71w, 80w, 312–4w, 1241–4w
Antisocial behaviour 54–5ws, 880w
Casinos 1359w
Crime prevention 409w, 1080w
Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 485w
Dept for Children Schools and Families 405w
Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 37w
Dept for Innovation Universities and Skills 110w, 857w
Employment 914–5
Olympic Games 2012 818w
Performing arts 1362–4w
Sex 1008w
Sexually transmitted diseases 1009–10w
Skin piercing 309–10w
Smoking 1323w
Sports 413w
Suicide 406–7w
Tobacco 1324–5w
Training 282
Unemployment 197–8w

Younger-Ross, Richard
Chamber Debates
Post offices, Closures (19.03.2008) 994
Questions
Gaza, Overseas aid 503w
Written questions, Dept for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform 486w
Written questions, Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 419w
Written questions, Dept of Health 739w
Written questions, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 327–8w

Youth services
Enfield 595w
Tamworth 596w

Yugoslavia
War crimes 494w, 1032w

Zimbabwe
EC external relations 335w
Elections 335w, 501w
Politics and government 336w
Sanctions 336w